

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OF

Politics and General Literature.

VOL. V.]

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1822.

[No. 243]

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

—529—

Politics of Europe.

The arrival of a Ship from England, bringing Papers of twenty days later date than those previously received, must very naturally excite the sanguine hopes of all Newspaper Readers: and to satisfy these, as far as we are able, we devote the whole of our present Number to Selections of English News, chiefly from Liverpool Papers between the 24th of May and 12th of June, with the exception of the last Sheet only, which is occupied by Debates of the early part of May, previously prepared for publication. Our Correspondents will, we trust, excuse the omission and delay of their Communications for a day or two, till the pressure of our English News is lightened.

A Commercial Letter of considerable interest, addressed by one of the first Houses in Liverpool to an Establishment of equal respectability here, will be found in a subsequent page, accompanied with the state of the Liverpool Market for East India Produce, up to as late a date as the 12th of June.

We understand, from authority almost as good as that upon which JOHN BELL was of late accustomed to deal out his demi-official scraps of Office-news on occasion of Arrivals from England, that Lieutenant Colonels Hennessey and Dalton of the Bengal Army, retired from the Service in the middle of May last. The progress of promotion in this Army, as we learn from our Military Correspondent, has been slower in the upper ranks, or Line Steps as they are technically called, than almost any he ever before remembers, only 3 or 4 steps of this description having occurred in the Infantry branch during the year, inclusive of those above mentioned. With great deference to the supposed superior weight in such matters, of our late Rival, we notwithstanding hazard a conjecture that the "Army Arrangements" are not yet complete, nor even on the eve of completion; although many months have gone over our heads since the Print alluded to assured its Military friends that the promised land was already in sight; and according to his clear official vision, apparently flowing with milk and honey.

The varieties that crowd on our attention will sufficiently occupy all our space, and perhaps be more interesting to the reader than comments on incidents and events that carry their own interpretation with them. We proceed therefore at once to the contents of the Liverpool Papers just received.

Liverpool, June 7, 1822.—We last week recorded the capture of Scio by the Turks, and the subsequent barbarities they there committed. Letters from Trieste assert, "that the Turks used Congreve rockets in firing the town; should this prove true, every British heart will be filled with indignation. It is in this manner that the legitimate Turks, the friends of barbarism, and, consequently, of the present European system, put down their rebellious subjects—the Christian Greeks, whose forefathers civilized the world. All Englishmen, worthy of the name, however, pity their fate, and deeply lament their inability to lend their assistance to them in their extremity. That the Russian army may, however, revenge their sufferings; must be the sincerest wish of every liberal mind. No more must be said by the English Government of the iniquity of African slavery. There are now Christian slaves; there are cultivated and civilized families carried into slavery by the legitimate Government of Turkey. The

island of Scio was filled with beautiful villas and a highly respectable population. The suffering of the Scioots will be long remembered; and, it is sincerely to be hoped, that their fate will nerve the arms of their countrymen, and lead to that determined conduct which can alone insure to them safety and success.

The news from the continent is devoid of particular interest. They supply the usual quantity of contradictory statement relative to Russia and Turkey—long surmises, rumours, and assertions, fraught with mysterious nothingness. The following paragraph, however, serves to shew the yet feverish state of the public mind in France, with respect to the Bourbons. The fracas was called forth in consequence of hostility to an election return, which was the work of only a few individuals:

Lyons, May 11.—(From a mercantile letter.)—Yesterday we had violent scenes here between the people and the soldiery, on account of the election—the Royalists were in the Hotel de Ville, and called out 'Vive le Roi!' On which a mass of from 6 to 7000 men, who had assembled in the Place Terraux, fell on the soldiers, and in some measure overpowered them. The whole afternoon in every street was heard the seditious cry of "Down with the Bourbons! Down with the King! Vive la Liberté!"—pitchers and flowerpots were thrown from the windows on the soldiers. In short, things went on dreadfully, and several persons were killed. Even the life of the Perfect was attempted. It was only possible to still the movement by communicating to the military (3,000 strong) orders to fire on the people. However, tranquillity is yet far from being fully restored.

The CONSTITUTIONNEL, French paper of Saturday last, has published a Russian declaration of War, against Turkey, which it found in its letter box! That such a document should first find its way into the world through such a channel as the letter-box of a Parisian paper, is improbable and ridiculous. The affairs between these two powers, may, we think, be still considered to be *in statu quo*; and we are tired of idle speculation on the subject.

Spain.—Some internal commotions continue still to agitate several of the provinces; but the enthusiastic patriotism of the majority of the people, it is fully anticipated, will soon restore general order and tranquillity.

The report of the Committee of Finance on the marine budget, read in the Cortes on the 20th ultimo, recommends a navy "compatible with the mercantile marine and the resources of the treasury." That proposed by the budget is, indeed, very limited, being only five ships of the line, four frigates, two corvettes, two brigantines, four schooners, seventeen for military purposes; and besides, one corvette, four brigantines, and five schooners, for the service of mails. Total twenty-seven vessels of all classes.

Cape of Good Hope.—Painful accounts have lately been received of the great distress of the agricultural emigrants, in consequence of the failure of the crops for two seasons. Many of them were absolutely starving. Some relief has been administered from Cape-town, but not sufficient to check the alarming distress. It is said the emigrants are indignant at their treatment, but dare not give vent to their complaints, lest the slender supply from Cape-town be cut off by the Governor, who, as he has ten thousand pounds a year for his own provision, may not be easily persuaded of the real extent of the calamity.

The Slave-trade.—Papers from Sierra Leone to the 17th of March, state, that the *IPHIGENIA* reached that place on the 16th February, and Sir Robert Mendes assumed the chief naval command on the station, as successor to Sir George Collier. The *IPHIGENIA*'s boats had searched the *BISAGGO* and *RIO GRANDE*, for slave-vessels, and, after a contest, captured a Portuguese, with 175 slaves on board. We lament to find that these papers furnish additional proofs of the increased and still increasing number of slave-vessels by which wretched Africa continues to be depopulated.

President of America.—A Philadelphia paper of the 25th ultimo, states, that there are not less than fifteen candidates for the office of President of the United States, at the ensuing election.

English and American Ambassadors.—The Americans, it is universally allowed, have had their diplomatic concerns conducted with unrivalled ability; and yet they pay their first class of foreign ministers no more than 9000 dollars, or £2000 per annum. This shows at how moderate an expense the real business of a nation can be managed. So far from thinking that the affairs of the Americans suffer from this low scale of salary, we are convinced that it is one reason why they are so ably conducted. Their minister is a man of business—ours a man of *ton*;—the one is in his bureau, while the other is in the ball room;—the one is famous for successful negotiations—the other for brilliant entertainments and choice wines;—the one is labouring for the solid advantage of his country—the other is feasting or fiddling for “the honour and dignity of his.”—*Scotsman*.

The Protestant society, for the protection of religious liberty, held their anniversary, on the 11th ultimo, at the City of London Tavern; Lord John Russell, in the Chair. Mr. Wilkes addressed the meeting in a very long and eloquent speech, detailing numerous instances of intolerance among the established clergy; among others, many cases where parochial relief had been refused because the supplicants were Dissenters, or sent their children to other than the national schools. In some places the most indecent interruptions had been experienced by Dissenters; and he also cited the case of Mr. Waller, who, it will be recollected, was, for preaching in the open air, at Ashton-under-Line, sentenced, by a Manchester bench of Magistrates with a clerical justice at their head, to three months' imprisonment in a common gaol, while that sentence was made to seem vindictive by the committal, on the same day, to the same prison, for only one month, of a woman guilty of publicly selling songs too indecent to be even publicly submitted to the Court. A number of spirited resolutions were agreed to; and the noble Chairman addressed the meeting in a feeling and animated speech, which was received with enthusiastic applause.

Some months ago, Mr. Pearson, on the part of two women, Anne Carey and Mary Anne Evans, moved the Court of King's Bench against two Staffordshire gentlemen, one of them a magistrate, for cruelty and oppression. The case involved an instance of seduction, under very aggravated circumstances; such as the seducer following the young woman to America, bringing her back to London, establishing her in a handsome house, and, finally, sending her a hundred pounds; and leaving her to beggary. On her way to Ireland, she fell ill in the neighbourhood of her seducer's seat, who, on her personally begging his assistance, procured her and her companion's commitment to Stafford Goal, as common *vagrants*. The case excited the attention of several persons in the county; and, ultimately, Mr. Pearson brought it before the Court of King's Bench. The Court granted a rule against the parties, and the result has been a reference to arbitration, which has assigned £1350 as damages and costs, to the plaintiffs.

Mr. Stuart, the principal in the duel in which Sir A. Boswell lost his life, was, on the 25th ultimo, served with an indictment to stand trial before the High Court of Justiciary, on the 10th instant.

Capt. Westphall is appointed to command the *JUPITER*, of 50 guns, fitted at Plymouth, for the conveyance of Mr. Canning to India.

It is said that the tax-collectors in Mary-la-bonne parish have received notice of no less than 300 carriages being laid down!

It is said that his Majesty will be prevented this year from visiting the continent, in consequence of the unwillingness of Lord Liverpool and Mr. Vansittart to apply to Parliament, in the year 1823, for the requisite supply to meet the expense which would necessarily be incurred.—*News*.

The will of the late Archbishop of Armagh has just been proved by his widow under two hundred and twenty thousand pounds! This is his Grace's personal property merely. What his real estate may be, we are unable to say. The stamp to the probate was £2000, which is all that the public derives from this vast accumulation of wealth.

The *TIMES* says, there is a strong probability that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will soon retire from office. He has realized an immense fortune.

The editor of the *MANCHESTER OBSERVER* mentions his having received a letter from Mr. Henry Hunt, who says, that the Rev. Messrs. Colston, Thring, and Whaley, and four others, visiting magistrates, have received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of the county, informing them that their services, as visiting magistrates, will be dispensed with in future.

The Fair Circassian.—It will be recollected that this celebrated beauty, who was purchased by the Persian Ambassador, on his way to this country, at Constantinople, and who was so much an object of attraction during her stay in England, was sent back to Persia by her lord and master, under the care of a favourite eunuch. On her journey, it appears, she was met by Mr. Kerr Porter, the British traveller, and, recognizing him as an Englishman, she immediately rode up to him with an intention of addressing him. This was, however, according to the notion of her attendant, *contra bonos mores*; and, in order to remind her of her duty, he struck her a violent blow across the shoulders with her stick. She instantly dropped her veil, closed her lips, and proceeded in sad silence; and, no doubt, was thus deprived of the opportunity of expressing those feelings of gratitude which her heart dictated on seeing the native of a kingdom where she had been so hospitably received.

Arrived at Blackwall, from India, on Saturday, in the ship *LYNCH*, (Query *LYNACH*?) his Highness Prince Nawab Meer Shaw Khan, son of the King of Delhi. His Highness, with two of the principal ladies of his Harem, immediately proceeded to the Plough Tavern, where he remains till acknowledged and officially disposed of.

Butter was sold in Loughborough market, on Thursday week, at only four pence per pound!—*Nottingham Review*.

Fete at the King's Theatre.—Yesterday se'nnight, a grand dress ball was here given; the proceeds to be applied to the charity for the relief of the Irish. No persons were admitted unless in uniform or full court dresses. The house was splendidly ornamented, and the company numerous and elegantly attired. The ladies were dressed with great magnificence, sparkling with jewels, decked with a profusion of ostrich feathers, and bearing shawbrooks at the girdle; youthful and lovely, they appeared like angels assembled to relieve the sorrows of an afflicted people:

“Forms such as Nature moulds when she would vie
With Fancy's pencil, and give birth to things
Lovely beyond its fairest picturings.”

The King was present, and seemed highly gratified. He sat between the Prince and Princess of Denmark. The amount collected was about £4000.

Some of the papers state, that Belzoni, the celebrated traveller, appeared in full court dress at the entrance of the theatre, and, presenting a forged ticket, was refused admittance; that he persisted on entering, ultimately drew his sword, and by force of athletic appearance and menaces gained his point, and was permitted to view the entertainment, undisturbed, during the rest of the evening. Mr. Belzoni has since addressed a letter to the editor of the *COURIER*, contradicting these statements, and as

firming that he bought his ticket from Mr. Ebers, owner of the theatre, for ten guineas; that he was treated as a common felon by the Lords in Waiting and by Sir R. Birnie, even after the Earl of Antrim had given him his ticket to prevent further confusion; put into the custody of the police, and detained until the Noble Earl returned and confirmed that he had actually so purchased his ticket,—when his entrance was allowed. He used no violence whatever. The matter therefore rests with Mr. Ebers for explanation.—We have often thought our London journalists are fond of *embellishing*, particularly in otherwise commonplace police law cases; in the reports of which they display a very laudable ingenuity to interest their readers.

The *Earl of Warwick*, and other entertainments, were lately performed at the Windsor Theatre, for the benefit of the suffering Irish. On this interesting occasion, Mr. Betty (the young Roscius) sustained the character of the *Earl of Warwick*, assisted by some gentlemen amateurs, who kindly came forward, in the hope of being able thus to contribute to the fund.

Mr. Kean has determined to devote the produce of his benefit this year, to the fund for the relief of the distressed peasantry in Ireland.

The Manchester Pitt Club held their anniversary dinner at the Exchange, last week. One hundred only sat down to dinner, although the stewards had ordered the publican to prepare dinner for one hundred and fifty. Pitt politics, the effects of which are so severely felt, have, therefore, become a less marketable article even in Manchester, than formerly. Whether there was any oratory on the above occasion we know not. We can easily conceive that Lord Londonderry or Mr. Canning could launch out most pathetically on the merits of the Pitt-system, which has worked so well for them; but the lauding eloquence of those who have hitherto supported it from a costless principle, and whose interests must be now somewhat affected by it, must be assuredly doubly ingenious.

Manchester races commenced on Wednesday so'nnight. The weather was propitious, and the sport generally good. The assemblage of company on the moor was immense, and no accident of a serious nature occurred, to damp the spirits of the holiday folks.—The Produce Stakes were won by Mr. Paulden's b. f. Faith, the Gold Cup by Sir T. Stanley's Doge of Venice, the St. Ledger Stakes by Lord Stamford's Adventurer, the Maiden Plate by Mr. Mytton's ch. c. the Ruler. *Thursday*—The Handicap Stakes for four years old, a mile and a distance, was won by Sir J. G. Egerton's b. c. Young Freeman, the Handicap Stakes for five and six year olds and aged horses, twice round and a distance, by Lord Stamford's Quicksilver, and Hunters' Stakes by Mr. Mytton's Habberley, the Plate by Mr. Houldsworth's Cataline. *Friday*—The Wilton Stakes were won by Mr. Houldsworth's Cataline, the Plate by Mr. Ferguson's Champagne, and the Handicap Stakes by Mr. Roshton's br. h. Sir Thomas.

There is an increased belief that a royal marriage is on the tapis.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, it is said, won £25,000 on his own horse *Moses*, at the late Epsom races. He took the odds, which were six to one against *Moses*, so that he could lose but a small sum, and might win to a large amount.

Vauxhall Gardens were opened on Monday last, by their new proprietors, under the special patronage of his Majesty: the result was, a great accession of novelty and improvement.

The price of tea has been somewhat affected in the metropolis, owing to the stoppage of trade with the Chinese. The general opinion is, that the Chinese can as ill spare their trade with us as we can ours with them, and that, consequently, the matter will, ere this, have been overlooked.

Liverpool, May 24. 1822—Civil List and Ministerial Jobs.—Mr. Lennard's recent motion to take into consideration the expenses of part of the Civil List, and the motion respecting the embassy to Switzerland, which Mr. Warre brought forward on the succeeding night, bear such resemblance to each other in their

objects, as well as in the discussion to which they rise, and in their results, that we shall consider them under one head, and endeavour, as briefly as possible, to convey the spirit of a protracted discussion, which, if fully reported, would occupy the whole of our journal, whilst, in fact, it possesses little interest, except inasmuch as it tends to exemplify the pertinacious adherence of ministers to a system of profligate and ruinous expenditure; and serves to illustrate the necessity of that kind of reform which would wrest the public purse from the gripe of borough-faction, and place it at the disposal of discreet and honest men, in whom the nation could repose well-grounded confidence. One argument advanced by Mr. Lennard, in support of the general reduction of the Civil List, will have much more weight with the public than it could be expected to have in an assembly constituted and influenced as the House of Commons notoriously is; nor were we at all surprised to find that the *pseudo* representatives of the people should turn a deaf ear to a proposition, on the reasonableness and justice of which, honest and unsophisticated men can only entertain one opinion. The Civil List has been augmented from time to time, because the value of money had fallen in the country;—but now, that the value of the currency has risen, and that the same principle, if acted upon, would disadvantageously affect the interests of placemen, the argument is not to be admitted; and the saving which ought to accrue to the public is a feather in the scale, when the influence of the Crown and of the borough-faction are in danger of being affected. In all such emergencies, we uniformly find, that, in the ministerial tactics, "saucy for a goose is not sauce for a gander."

Mr. Lennard, as if he were addressing men acting on the principles of moral responsibility, observed, that "It was hardly necessary that he should recal to the recollection of Members his Majesty's gracious speech, delivered in the beginning of the session; and in which he had recommended to that House, in the most decided terms, the adoption of economical measures. He was sorry to say, that that speech had been followed up by its own makers—by its very penmen—coming down to the House, and, in defiance of their own propositions, contending that no practical good would result from the adoption of retrenchments." With this fact in his recollection, what prospect of success could Mr. Lennard entertain from any appeal to the Honourable House on moral grounds? and yet we find him urging upon their attention, that the measure of retrenchment which he recommended, would, if adopted, be beneficial to the country in a moral sense, by proving to the people, that there was "some sincerity in those professions of sympathy for their sufferings which the House of Commons had so repeatedly made." Could Mr. Lennard imagine that such a consideration as this would influence ministers, of whom he had himself previously declared, that the vast expenses with which they burdened the country "were in no way conducive to the proper representation of the sovereign, or to the advancement or distinction of any body else; but that they were merely a means by which they were enabled to purchase those venal services, which otherwise they would be unable to procure." If ministers really do thus sacrifice the public interests to those of their own creatures, we need be at no loss to account for the fact stated by Mr. Lennard, that, "in proportion as Switzerland had fallen in the scale of Europe (*hear, from the Ministerial benches*) had the emoluments of the ambassador been increased, until now they were actually twenty times the amount formerly paid."

If the ministers, without a standing army or yeomanry cavalry at their beck, were to hear that a powerful invading enemy had effected a landing on our shores, they could not be seized with a panic much greater than that which they feel whenever, in their Honourable House, any allusion is made to the economical policy of the United States. To model their scheme of Government after Yankee fashion would be as odious in their eyes, as it would be for a dandy Diplomatist to be compelled to exchange his superb robes, and his stars and garters, for the sober costume of Benjamin Franklin. As some little penance for their habitual transgressions, we are, therefore, always pleased when their profligacy is contrasted with republican simplicity; and the follow-

ing passage in the speech of Mr. Lennard, together with some forcible observations of Sir J. Mackintosh, delighted us in the exact degree that they "galled the enemy."

"Comparing 1792 with the present era, it would be found that all the minor states of the continent were made dependent upon one or other of the members of the grand quintuple alliance. Nevertheless, the most costly embassies were kept up at these inferior courts. In 1792 the whole expense of ambassadors in Italy was £10,000, yet now it approached to £15,000. In 1792, the embassy to the United States of America cost £3,670, and now £7,426. The British minister there was paid £8,000; and this fact was most remarkable, since it was actually more by £500 a year than the Legislature allowed to the President of the United States. The only pretence for paying so largely in Europe was, that our ministers might live upon a scale suited to the Court in which they resided; but in America our Ambassador enjoyed an allowance beyond the salary of the Chief Magistrate of the Republic. Now with all regard to our rank in Europe, he could not help hoping that ere long ministers would see the necessity of imitating the wise and economical policy of that great and flourishing republic."

Successor to Mr. Canning.—At length the secret is out; and the statement we made some weeks since is fully confirmed. Mr. Gladstone aspires to be the successor to Mr. Canning, as we are plainly told by the LIVERPOOL COURIER of Wednesday. His correspondent, who breaks the ice on this occasion, and respecting whose identity we shall not indulge in surmise, informs us that "the question has been put to Mr. Gladstone by some of his friends, whether or not he will consent to be brought forward at the ensuing election to represent Liverpool? and that his answer has been, that if the town thinks proper to require it, he will consider it a distinguished honour, and will vacate his present seat; but unless applied to, he has no intention of offering himself."

There are, however, more parties necessary to a negotiation of this description than Mr. Gladstone and his immediate friends and connections;—there is the public, or rather that portion of the public by whom the elective franchise is monopolized, under the present preposterous system, of which Mr. Gladstone is an advocate: and as the lavish expenditure, inseparable from an election-contest for the rotten borough of Liverpool, is a part of the system, Mr. Gladstone and his friends, in the event of his becoming a candidate, will have to pay smartly for the said system which "works so well," as their friend Canning has repeatedly told them. How the great body of freemen, as they are called, may feel disposed towards Mr. Gladstone, we cannot determine; as they are too often swayed by motives which are any thing but honourable and patriotic. There is a schism even amongst the Tory and Backbone factions on this subject, originating in motives of an interested nature. It is objected to Mr. Gladstone, that he or his immediate connections are concerned in almost every branch of business carried on in the town, to the great detriment of the master-tradesmen. Those who wish to hear Mr. Gladstone's explanation on this point, as well as a detail of the eminent services he has rendered the town at large, may consult the LIVERPOOL COURIER of Wednesday last. Our objections to Mr. Gladstone are of a very different nature. He is the advocate of a corrupt system, which enslaves the country; and the partizan of a set of ministers, whose measures we hold in utter abhorrence.

Irish Misery.—A circumstance, which has just come to our knowledge, shows the dreadful extremities to which the famishing people of some parts of Ireland are reduced. A vessel laden with oatmeal was, last week, boarded and plundered of her whole cargo, consisting of about sixty tons. She was, at the time, distant about six miles from the bay of Kilala; and the predatory party consisted almost entirely of wretched and desperate females, who came but in boats in such numbers as to render any resistance in vain. No violence was offered to the crew.

Proposed additional Duty on Cotton.—The paragraph on this subject in a preceding page, which was prepared for insertion last week, should have been concluded by the statement, that, in consequence of prompt and vigorous opposition on the part of

the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the intentions of ministers on that subject have been abandoned. The very attempt, however, at such a period, strongly marks the sincerity of Government in respect to their professions of forbearing further pressure of taxation on the commercial community, who, even with the present low prices of food, are about neck and neck in the race of competition with the less-loaded foreigner.

Distress in Ireland.—The mass of evidence received by the Liverpool Committee, as to the extent of the distress in Ireland, is sufficient to dispel every doubt which the most sceptical may entertain as to the necessity of large and immediate contributions to relieve it. Our brother editors have, from day to day, published various authentic documents on the subject, and we now beg leave to request the attention of our readers to the following:

Extract of a letter, dated "Ballina, May 18, 1822," to Cropper, Benson, and Co.

"Among the poor here, distress does indeed exist to an extent that is truly alarming; not only are our streets and highways crowded with a multitude of miserable mendicants, men, women and children, whose squalid and meagre appearance at once proclaims their necessities, but a great number of tradespeople, and labourers of industrious and regular habits, deserving a better fate, are pining in their wretched habitations, on a single scanty meal in the day, being the utmost the fruits of their earnings can purchase: such is the want of employment and consequent scarcity of money. This is not all: symptoms of disease are already appearing; and to famine, we are apprehensive the no less dreadful scourge of pestilence will be superadded. The reflection, too, that the time of effectual relief is far distant, is no light aggravation of the present privations. There is a plentiful supply of grain and oatmeal in the country, at prices which cannot fairly be deemed high. The utter want of means to purchase, is the immediate cause of distress. We would not, however, advise the distribution of money; relief would, in our opinion, be more judiciously applied by a sale of oatmeal at a reduced price to the necessitous trader, people, and labourers; and a partial gratuitous distribution to such as are destitute of means and incapable of labour. Suppose, for instance, 100 tons of oatmeal to be had at £1500 or £1600, to be sold or distributed so as to produce £1000, the deficiency to be supplied by the contributions of the charitable and benevolent, whom the Almighty has blessed with the means of affording such relief. Here the inhabitants who could, have been supporting a great number this some time past, privately. The numbers are so increased, and the cry of hunger become at length so general and so appalling, that a public meeting of our town was convened to-day, at a very short notice, to consult and adopt means for affording relief on some more extended scale. £150 was subscribed in a few minutes by a few individuals. This sum will probably be doubled or trebled in the course of next week; but, it will not, after all, give a tithe of the relief that is imperiously called for by the exigency of the time. We propose to employ as many labourers as our funds will admit of, in clearing the bed of our river, and otherwise improving our navigation, &c. giving such wages as will enable them to buy provisions at the reduced rates; this offer, we need hardly say, will be received as a most welcome relief to a multitude, who are not afforded any other mode of earning a subsistence. A committee is formed to solicit aid and devise such measures and plans of relief, as may be best calculated to meet the exigencies of the time. The munificent donations and subscriptions on your side have attracted general admiration: they are well calculated to call forth our most grateful acknowledgements, and will serve more to draw us nearer to each other, in real union of feeling and sentiment, than all the political measures, that politicians have been devising for years past."

One hundred thousand mackerel have been caught on the coast of Dorsetshire this season.

A number of gentlemen in Huddersfield and the neighbourhood are about to establish a society for the purpose of disseminating principles for the promotion of permanent and universal peace.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

—533—

Late Liverpool Papers.

Liverpool, Friday, June 7, 1822.—Reduction of Taxation.—After all the protestations of ministers, that reduction had been carried to the furthest practicable extent, they have been compelled to make some further concession to the public voice; and, rather than resign their places, they will yield much more; although, as in the partial surrender of the salt tax, they may neither do it with a good grace, nor with all possible advantage to the community. Whilst they have reduced the duty on this necessary of life from fifteen shillings to two shillings, it is understood that the whole expensive machinery of collection and management will be retained in full vigour, although the charges of collecting will thereby amount to about 20 per cent. upon the whole tax. What then?—all this is necessary to support the influence of the Crown! In ordinary life, what would the world think of that man, who, with a view to retrieve his embarrassments should retire from a splendid mansion of £1500 a-year, to a smaller house of £200, and carry with him all the servants which were maintained on his larger establishment?—Although, in our opinion, the Government would have acted with more wisdom had they wholly abolished the tax, we do not deny that the country will benefit by what they have done. Salt will now be usefully and economically applied to domestic purposes, especially to curing fish when it is the cheapest and most plentiful. Mr. Macdonald, author of the "Hobridges," states, that, "owing to the want of salt, many thousand barrels of the finest herrings in the world are lost every year during the fishing season. I have seen," he continues, "whole cargoes thrown into the sea in a putrid state, and others used as manure for potatoe ground, in consequence of the inability of the fishermen to find surety or bail for the requisite supply of salt, conformably to the salt-law regulations."

The abandonment of the Irish window and hearth tax, and the remission of the British tonnage duty, are sacrifices absolutely demanded by existing circumstances. The country, however, neither will nor can be satisfied, unless ministers proceed somewhat more rapidly in the work of retrenchment, of which, the measures now under consideration can only be regarded as the commencement. The repeal of that most insupportable of all our burdens—the tax upon the light and air of heaven, would be most acceptable to every man in the country except ministers themselves. This detestable tax, which Beelzebub himself must have suggested to Plut, is the father of falsehood, prevarication, and mental reservation: it is also the prolific source of filth and disease; and, in all aspects is the most hideous of the group of imps, which have, from time to time, issued from the budget of our task masters.

There is one beneficial effect which would follow the abolition of the window tax, which is particularly entitled to the serious attention of the community, as it serves to throw some light upon the absurd doctrine about taxes being no evil, because their amount returns to the community like "refreshing dews." To show in its true light the difference between people spending their own money, and having it taken from them by the taxgatherer,—let us suppose the window tax abolished, and that a majority of those who now bear the burden of it shall spend the exact amount of the present tax in opening new windows, in glazing, joinering, and bricklaying; will it be pretended that they do not benefit, because they pay precisely the same sum they did before? Are light and fresh air nothing? Is comfort nothing? And is there not some difference between the independent privilege of spending our own money according to our taste or whim, and the dependent alternative of having it taken out of our pockets against our consent, according to the taste and whim of the Legislature? The immense increase in the consumption of glass, of timber, and building materials, as well as the additional demand for labour, which would immediately result from the removal of this impolitic tax, would be strong arguments with a wise legislature, who would have the discrimination to perceive, also, that the revenue would receive some compensation for the sacrifice, in the increased consumption of glass, which pays a very heavy excise duty.

We are called upon by the Treasury journals to express our gratitude for what ministers have already done; but, for our own parts, all the feeling we have on the occasion is disgust at the ungracious manner in which they have given back to the public a tithe of their just demands. Their conduct towards a suffering and supplicating people resembles the *charity* of the man, who, merely to get rid of the importunity of a loathsome object, casts down a halfpenny to a starving beggar.—We feel perfectly assured, that whilst we have men like these to deal with, nothing effectual will be done for the people, without unremitting efforts on our own parts. Ministers will dispute every inch of ground; as Lord Londonderry has more than once opposed any concession to the people, because it would operate as an encouragement to further demands. His Lordship, in this particular, reminds us of the obstinate schoolboy, who could not be prevailed on to say the first letter of the alphabet; upon which, one of his companions observed to him, that it was an easy matter to say A, and avoid a beating. "Yes," replied the little urchin, "I can say A as well as you can, but I won't; for if I once say A, they'll make me say B, and all the rest of them; so I am determined not to say A at all."—Our ministers, with the same disposition, and actuated by the same motives as this little hero, have exhibited less firmness:—they have opened their lips, and have actually got as far as A B C. They are, indeed, very backward in getting forwards (if we may assimilate our phraseology to that of a Noble Lord at their head); but it will be the fault of the people if they make no further progress in their most unpalatable task.

On Monday evening last, on the motion of Mr. Curwen, an attempt was made to procure the total abolition of the salt tax, which was lost by a majority of 44, including, as we suspect, both the members for Liverpool, although General Gascoyne alone appears to have borne any share in the disposal of the question. It will require powers of a higher description than fall to the lot of this gentleman to bring over the public to his opinion, that "enough had already been done in the way of retrenchment, and as much as the public had a right to expect for this session; and that they ought to wait to observe its effects before they proceeded further." The gallant General, secure in the enjoyment of the fruits of his valour and patriotism, ought to think of those who have not literally "salt to the potting;" and he should be reminded that "whilst the grass grows, the horse starves."

Lycæum.—We perceive that a general meeting of the proprietors is convened for this day, to consider of an application for the use of the rooms for the approaching Canning dinner. For our own parts we shall vote, and advise others to vote, in favour of the application (although it proceeds from an avowedly political party) as we should wish the friends of liberty to set an example of liberality on all such occasions; at the same time, we expect it will be agreed, on all sides, that if a similar application should be made from the opponents of Mr. Canning, on a future day, similar liberality will be shown.

Botanic Garden.—Yesterday, a general meeting of proprietors was held, when the recently adopted regulation for the admission of annual subscribers, not being shareholders, was abrogated, and new arrangements made which we have not room to detail, and which, we doubt not, will be made public in an official form.

Madame Catalani.—[Extract from the MORNING CHRONICLE of May 24.]—"Madame Catalani's fourth concert, on Wednesday, was as numerously attended as any of those which preceded it; even the orchestra was again filled with Company, to the exclusion of some of the performers. Whatever trouble was encountered in getting a seat, and whatever inconvenience was sustained in hearing the excessive heat, were well repaid by Madame Catalani's 'Angels ever bright and fair.' Signors Sapia and Piacci sung several pieces with excellent effect, and Mr. Dizi with Mr. Cianchetti performed a duet for harp and piano forte. Mr. Yanciewicz, to whose skill in leading these concerts every praises due, performed a very delightful concerto, and of a reasonable length, on the violin. He is well known as one of

the most deservedly celebrated performers in Europe, and he nobly maintained his reputation upon this occasion. Indeed, it must be confessed that he divided the applause with the great songstress, whose concerts he manages.

Ireland.—The Irish newspapers are still pregnant with the most afflicting narratives of human suffering, arising from privation of food, and concomitant disease. As many of these statements are already before the public, through other journals, we quote a few only of the cases, related in authentic letters received by the Liverpool Committee; and which cannot fail to excite the commiseration—and to actuate the truly benevolent in their generous exertions to shield an unfortunate people from the double-edged sword of famine and disease.

A letter from Mr. H. Martin, of Aughrim, says, "I shall not attempt to detail the many cases of actual want; suffice it to say, that from personal knowledge I am but too truly enabled to declare that exclusive of the very many families who are unable to sow their ground for want of seed, there are numbers in this large and populous village who when they rise in the morning know not where or how they shall procure food for the day; superadded to this we have a more than ordinary influx of strange paupers, who serve to heighten the distress, and altogether present a scene of suffering humanity, which I sincerely trust is not far exceeded even in the southern districts of this unhappy kingdom."

A letter from the Protestant and Catholic Ministers at Domes, county of Cork, says, "The wretched people are left literally without provisions and without money. To our positive knowledge several of them have passed days successively without having had a regular meal, subsisting merely on the small shell fish and sea weed they have gathered on the shore. To add to the distress, fever had begun its ravages, in several families of this neighbourhood it has raged and is now raging with a greater or less degree of malignity. And without more efficient aid, it is impossible to say or to imagine where the mischief and misery will end. The aid we require cannot be procured in our own neighbourhood; extensive as the parish is, there is not a single gentleman of property, but the resident, in it; and though we have hundreds, we may say thousands able and willing to labour no employment is to be had."

A letter from Dr. M'Suenny, of Macroom, says, "The population of this town, by the last census, consists of about 3300 people, of which, and I am sure I speak moderately 2000 are in absolute want, not having the means of buying a single meal of provisions, and no employment, but such as is afforded by the committee here, at the poor allowance of about 5d. a day to men and 4d. to women, and yet trifling as this sum is, the committee are quite unable to give employment to half the applicants, for nothing is given gratuitously. To these pressing evils of hunger and want of employment we have now to add the typhus fever, which has broken out to an alarming extent. I have visited in one day, within the last fortnight, not fewer than 25 or 30 new cases, the two clergymen of the parish are now confined with it, having received the contagion in their attendance on the sick. Altogether, Sir, a degree of appalling misery exists, such as no member of your committee could even form an idea of."

Another letter from the Archbishop of Tuam, says, "I assure you that the whole of the counties of Mayo, Galway, Leitrim, Roscommon, and Sligo, of which the province of Connaught consists, is in the most appalling distress. Many, I am sure, notwithstanding the great efforts, both local and foreign, that are making for their relief, will die by starvation, and very many more by the effects of bad, unwholesome, unwholesome food. I pray to the God of all mercy to give us a plentiful harvest and remove this bitter visitation."

A letter from the Rector of Castlehaven, says, "To alleviate and to ascertain the extent of distress, I began to employ labourers on a road. I this day had 140 men at 5d. a day, and was forced to turn away upwards of 70, not having funds to employ them. The poor wretches said they might as well work as be idle, and absolutely performed their day's work though they

knew in the evening I could not pay them. The reason I lowered the wages to 5d. was to ascertain the extent of distress and the individuals on whom it pressed most severely. A family of seven or eight persons cannot subsist on such a sum, yet I know many hundred families that would rejoice to have a certainty of such a sum daily. Many have already expired from famine, though not in this parish."

A letter from the Committee of Tromore Parish, Mayo, says, "The inhabitants of this village labour under peculiarly aggravated distress. We have taken a census of this parish; and find the number labouring under the most deplorable distress to be to the number of 1739 persons actually without food or the means of procuring it; these statements we can verify on oath."

Liverpool, Friday, May 31, 1822.—*Russia and the United States.*—The Autocrat of Russia, the magnanimous Alexander, not content with his own immense territories in Europe, has put in his claim to the north-west coast of America, from the pole, if it extend so far, down to the fifty-first degree of latitude. His royal ambition is not content with this manorial usurpation of upwards of two thousand miles; and he accordingly extends his imperial surveillance over all the sea between the coasts of Asia and America. This sea is about four thousand miles broad; and no vessel, except Russian, must presume to approach nearer to the coast than one hundred Italian miles.

This is a subject to which it is probable that we shall have frequent occasion to revert; as the wholesale claims of the northern despot, if persisted in, must necessarily lead to a maritime war; in which event, England can scarcely remain a passive spectator; and the million bayonets of Alexander will avail little in a contest with the well-manned navy of the United States. In another part of our paper, we have given a brief view of the correspondence between the Russian ambassador and Mr. Adams:—for the present, our limits will not allow us to enlarge upon the subject further than to observe, that the question of war and peace will entirely depend upon the interest and will of Russia, without any regard to the honesty of the measure; as such common-place considerations are beneath the notice of so distinguished a member of the Holy Alliance.

Great potentates never want prettexts to follow their own inclinations. The King of Prussia, surnamed "the Great!" in one of his letters to Voltaire (published in Voltaire's memoirs of himself) writes as follows:—"Add to the foregoing considerations, I had troops entirely prepared to act; this, with the fulness of my treasury, and the vivacity of my character, were the reasons why I made war upon Maria Theresa, Queen of Bohemia and Hungary." And again: "Ambition, interest, and a desire to make the world speak of me, vanquished all, and war was determined."

Reduction of Taxation.—We have been obliged to withdraw some observations we had prepared on the reduction of the Salt Tax, the remission of the Irish Window and Hearth Taxes, and the British Tonnage Duties. We shall not fail, however, to notice these subjects in our next.

State of Ireland.—Much as our benevolent countrymen have signalized themselves in affording relief to the famishing people of Ireland, we are convinced that not one person in ten, throughout the kingdom, is sufficiently aware of the extended horrors which call so loudly for prompt and efficient charity. Let any person who can afford relief read the following extracts from information received by the Liverpool Committee, and we are confident an impression will be made on the heart which will be best relieved by an ample contribution from the pocket.

A letter from the Archbishop of Tuam, to the secretaries at Liverpool, says, "I pray the relief of your benevolent committee to the perishing population of this town and immediate neighbourhood. Our distressed state is truly deplorable, and I have the same to report of almost the whole of the province of Connaught, over which, as Metropolitan, I preside. I am appalled at the conviction that many must die from actual hunger, and many more from the effects of bad, scanty, unwholesome unwholesome food."

A letter from the Rector of Castlehaven, says "Already four individuals have died from famine. I yesterday found by the road side a girl, 12 years old, attempting to eat grass; she had not tasted for three days, and could scarcely articulate. The squalid countenances of the peasantry are appalling. I saw a man yesterday, faint, whilst digging a field, from hunger. The weeds of the corn field are collected to furnish a wretched meal. Famine will soon be followed by pestilence."

A letter from a gentleman of Sligo, now at Dublin, says "I am induced to address myself to you, on behalf of the poor in the town and neighbourhood of Sligo where not only famine, but disease prevails to an alarming extent, and where it is computed, that upwards of 7000 persons will be for some months depending on public bounty for the means of existence. I had a letter from Sligo this morning, which represents, on the report of visiting committees, the misery greater than those who were best acquainted with the situation of the poor could have possibly conceived. My friend says, at their second public meeting, the county court house, where it was held, and nearly filled with poor persons petitioning inquiring what was to be done for them:—it was an affecting sight. He calculates on £600 being got, which, under present circumstances, is a large sum for Sligo. The committee are going prudently to work: they are giving out seed potatoes on credit, and finding work for the poor at reduced rates. Any assistance your committee can afford, will be most acceptable, and will be gratefully acknowledged."

A letter received from Ballina, says, "Within the limited sphere of my own observation, there is a degree of private, patient suffering, that almost exceeds belief; but the faces of the sufferers show their privations. One instance occurred last week: the widow of a baker, who had been an industrious, honest man, was, with a family of eight children, without any kind of food for 48 hours: on hearing it, I sent them a sack of potatoes and some meal. Every street supplies instances of distress; in one lane near us, 11 houses were deserted in one week by their inhabitants from absolute necessity. During last week, seven of these houses were filled with beggars, two and three families in each house, and the rest will, no doubt, soon be occupied in a similar way, as they are flocking in in great numbers; many of them have the appearance of having seen better days. Want will be felt for full three months to come, ere which, God knows what may be the consequence."

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Seymour of Connemara, says, "There are not, I believe, ten families in the barony of Ballynahinch who have sufficient food to support them during the summer; many families strive to exist on one poor meal in the day; several live on shell fish and salt leaf, others have been driven to the necessity of disentering the potatoes they had planted, and using them for food, while some individuals for want of seed were obliged to lay their potatoe gardens waste. Typhus fever, the result of scarcity of provisions and unwholesome food, rages much in this county."

A letter from the committee at Clonakilly, county of Cork, says, "Were we to attempt a description to you of the appalling scenes of famine-faced misery, with which we are surrounded, it would only add an unnecessary pang to acting philanthropists. We have entered into subscriptions which enabled us to employ one hundred and twenty labourers on works of utility, leaving thousands on thousands unemployed. Melancholy to state, of the small number we have employed, many of them had not eaten any food from thirty to forty hours previous."

A letter from T. S. Lindsay, Esq. High Sheriff of Mayo, says, the distresses arise from "A failure in the potato crop of last year, and the inability of the lower classes to purchase either this root or any provision at present. The small plots usually attached to the cabins of the poor, in many cases, remain unsown from the impossibility of procuring seed. Nothing can be more wretched than the situation of the peasantry generally in Mayo. I have seen hundreds of wretched people greedily seeking for water cresses, wild mustard, nettletops, dwarf thistles, or dandelion all the spring, and this unnatural food has been the only meal within

their reach. As to any permanent relief none can be expected, until many of the evil systems bearing so heavily on the lower classes are either removed or modified in their favour. Tythes, grand jury and vestry cesses, amount now to what is, in regard to many rateable acres, a sufficient rent; add to these townland fines, the severity with which the excise laws are enforced, the tyranny and oppression of the inferior officers of this department, and as yet no general reduction of rent on the part of the landlords, and one cannot be disappointed at the results. The peasantry cannot be but what they are, the most wretched of any civilized country upon earth."

London, June 11, 1822.—We yesterday received Madrid papers by express to the 3d instant, and have drawn up a brief summary of the discussion in the Cortes on the validity of the late contract for a loan, which however was not concluded in the sitting of the 2d.

By an article under the head of Madrid, we learn that the Government of Spain is apprised of the recognition of the independence of the South American Republics by the United States. The news is stated to have been brought by Chevalier Banos, the second Secretary of of the Spanish Legation, who left New York on the 18th of April, and arrived at Gibraltar in 28 days.

The pending measure with regard to the salt-tax is destined, as we learn from the Dublin journals, to present in the sister island an illustration of the talents of our Finance Minister, even more peculiar and edifying than any that we have been able to extract from it here. By taking off in this country 13s. out of 15s from the tax per bushel on salt, it is so contrived that all such portion of the impost as went for profit to the revenue has been got rid of, while all which could be made subservient to patronage only has been conscientiously retained. Here, therefore, a productive tax has been improved into a vehicle of unmixed corruption: but in Ireland the thing has been managed with a degree of skill which is infinitely more original and surprising. There the duty is *abolished* altogether, and—what would be very curious any where but in Ireland—the people are made to pay more under the abolition, than they did under the operation of the tax. We remember when the salt tax was imposed upon the poor Irish, and hard was it considered that miserable creatures whose only dinner was potatoes should be deprived of that which was their only sauce. It is true that the tax has hitherto been not more than 2s. Irish on white, and 1s. 6d. on rock salt—these duties have now been formally "abolished." But mark the end: drawback of the whole English duty was heretofore allowed in this country, on salt exported to Ireland; this drawback is henceforth to be discontinued, so that the unfortunate Irish pauper will have to pay the new tax of 2s. British, levied at the pit-month, instead of 2s. of Irish currency—the old local tax in Ireland; otherwise his tax of 2s. Irish on white salt is reduced to 2s. 2d., or an increase of 8½ per cent. (when the exchange is at par); and his tax of 1s. 6d. Irish on rock salt is reduced in the same way to 2s. 2d., or, speaking gravely, undergoes an increase of 45 per cent? This is a species of abolition, which, however suitable in Mr. VANSITTART's fancy to the understandings of the Irish, will hardly so well adapt itself to their feelings. But not to strip so hopeful a scheme of that sort of panegyric which it may fairly challenge, we must allow that it exhibits the flower of arithmetic—that it is indeed "the very ecstasy" of finance.

The Prince of Denmark assumes, while in England, the title of Count Alston, which title is on his visiting cards. His Royal Highness is considered to be here *incognito*.

We understand that at the Court of Proprietors of East India Stock, which is to be held to-morrow, the subject of the trade in sugar, and the restrictions attempted to be placed on it for the protection of the West Indian interest, will be introduced, and is expected to give rise to an animated discussion.

We have authority to state, that his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex will visit the county of Durham this summer on his way to Edinburgh. We understand that his Royal Highness

is expected at Lambton-hall on the 23d of August. We are happy that the inhabitants of the north of England will thus have an opportunity of expressing, by their reception of his Royal Highness, their sense of his manly independence and able exertions in the cause of constitutional liberty. Of all the members of the Royal Family, the Duke of Sussex has ever appeared the most deeply impressed with the importance of that principle which inseparably connects the prosperity of the House of Brunswick with the general freedom of the people of this empire. In conformity with this feeling, he has always disregarded courtly favour, whenever it interfered with the free exercise of his public duties; and now despises, we doubt not, as much as the country at large, those petty personal insults which would punish his independent vindication of the laws of justice in the instance of the late Queen, by exclusion even from an opera-house fete. If we know his character aright, we may safely predict that he will be amply consoled by the honest and virtuous warmth of feeling which his presence will elicit from the free and enlightened population of the north.—*Durham Chronicle*.

Grand Concert at the Mansion-house, To-morrow, June 12.—It is with great pleasure we announce that the Prince and Princess of Denmark are expected to honour with their presence this grand musical entertainment, at which the ladies patronesses intend to appear in full dress in honour of these distinguished visitors. The public is already informed that the profits of this Concert are to be applied in aid of the benevolent purposes of the Society for bettering the condition of the poor in Ireland, and it must be gratifying to hear that the leading persons in the musical world have gratuitously offered their services.

Earl Spencer arrived at Copenhagen on the 1st instant. His Lordship went on board the frigate commanded by the Hon. Captain Spencer (his son), accompanied by Sir G. Naylor, who is to invest the King of Denmark with the Order of the Garter.

Turkey and Russia.—By a vessel which has had a very quick passage from St. Petersburg, letters have been received of the 4th of May. On this authority it is stated, that the Emperor Alexander had set out to join the armies.

A Russian vessel, the *LEONIDAS*, which left Constantinople on the 9th of April, brings intelligence, that at her departure large reinforcements of irregular troops were arriving from different parts of Asia. Great fermentation prevailed among the Mussulmans. The Austrian Ambassador had, it was said, quitted, to proceed to Vienna. The Europeans, both English and French, looking to all the chances of a long and terrible war, had quitted the city, and proceeded, for the most part, towards the frontiers of the Austrian provinces.

The French papers of Wednesday se'night bring little information respecting the affairs of Russia and Turkey, but what they contain is of a warlike complexion. An article from Hamburgh states that accounts had been received from the banks of the Pruth, dated April 21, containing the important intelligence that the second Russian army had received, for the second time, orders to hold themselves in readiness to march; the third order will fix its destination.

The new elections to the French Chamber of Deputies have commenced. The *Ministerialists* and *Ultras* are now united into one party against the *Liberals*, and all at present appear earnestly engaged in electioneering hostilities.

Our Continental letters continue to speak confidently of an approaching Congress of the European Powers; but they do not agree upon the place where it is to be held. Some mention Florence, others Vienna; and it is said that if Vienna should be the chosen spot, the Emperor Alexander would attend it in person.—*London Courier*.

Recognition of South American Independence.—At a meeting of the American Congress, March 23, the President's message, on the above subject (see a late *Mercury*) was taken into consideration, when it was unanimously resolved, that the House concurred in the opinions of the President, and "that the American

provinces of Spain, which have declared their independence and are in the enjoyment of it, ought to be recognised by the United States as independent nations." They also voted a sum, not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars, in order to give due effect to such recognition.

It is expected that the United States of North America will, forthwith, despatch five envoys, with their respective suites, to the five independent nations of once Spanish America. The unanimity with which the popular branch of the national legislature, at Washington, has at length ceded the acknowledgement of independence to these countries is honourable to itself; and may be the means of inducing Spain to relinquish any further attempts to subjugate to her yoke territories on which God and nature seem to have imprinted the seal of rational freedom.—The solitary member of Congress (Mr. Carnett) who was dissentient to the above acknowledgment, being refused permission to enter his reasons at length on the journals of the House, submitted another declaration, "that his dissent merely arose, not from any opposition to the independence of these countries, which he rejoiced at, but, because, considering it as a question of policy, not of principle, he believed no immediate advantage would grow out of it to either country, whilst many considerations, affecting both, rendered it at present inexpedient." The bent of his reasons carries some cogency. He conceives, that the recognition cannot benefit states virtually free, and undisturbed; and may rouse the resentment of the yet Spanish colonies, whose trade with the United States is more than equivalent to any advantages yet to be derived from the acknowledgment. He also supposes, that the recognition may fall the Independents into a fatal dream of invulnerable security.

Affair at St. Domingo.—The *BOSTON CITY GAZETTE*, of April 10, states, on the authority of a letter from Aux Cayes, March 9, that a body of French troops, from Martinique, in three frigates, three gabarras, four brigs, and four schooners, had made a descent at Samana, with the intention of retaking Spanish St. Domingo from the Haytiens. The French are stated to have plundered two plantations, and destroyed a village in the neighbourhood; they, however, retired to their ships on the approach of the Haytien General, having bombarded the town, which was totally destroyed. In consequence of this affair, an embargo has been laid upon all foreign vessels.

On Tuesday, the Blucher coach, which runs between Leeds and Selby, was overturned within about a mile of the latter place, owing to the breaking of the axle-tree, but none of the passengers received any serious injury. On the following day, a coach-maker was sent from Leeds for the purpose of trying up the axle-tree, so as to enable it to be run to Leeds, without passengers, for the purpose of undergoing a thorough repair; but when the coach arrived at the top of Quarry-hill, the axle-tree gave away, the consequences of which was, that the coach was again overturned, and the coach-maker had his leg so dreadfully fractured, that it was found necessary to amputate it, but, we are sorry to have to add, that this operation did not prevent the mortification which was apprehended from taking place, and the unfortunate man expired on Friday evening.

The Constitutional Society is dwindling like the snuff of a candle. We first hear of one retrenchment, and then of another; of the retreat of this worthy, and then of that, in such a way, that Mr. Murray seems likely to be rapidly left alone with the balance in hand—a favourite situation of his;—but, alas! he too must go out. The process, indeed, much resembles that described in the following lines by Cowper:—

"So when a child, as playful children use,
Has burnt to tinder a stale last year's new;
The flame extinct, he views the roving fire,
There goes my Lady, and there goes the Squire,
There goes the Parson, oh! illustrious spark,
And there no less illustrious, goes the Clerk.
The text of our quotation means Parish Clerk, but Hon. Sec. will do just as well.

PARLIAMENTARY.

—537—

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1832.

ILCHESTER JAIL.

To a question from Mr. Alderman Wood, Mr. Peel replied that he had directed his Majesty's Attorney-general to institute a prosecution against Bridle; and that a commission was directed to the Lord Lieutenant and the local authorities, to institute a full inquiry into the state of Ilchester Jail.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PEERS' BILL.

On the motion of Mr. Canning, the bill was read a third time, and passed.—Sir Thomas Lethbridge exclaimed, "Thank God, we have still three estates, King, Lords, and Commons."

After a short debate, the Colonial Trade Bill was read a second time.

IRISH POOR.

The House having resolved itself into a committee, Mr. Goulburn moved, "That it is the opinion of this committee, that, for the relief and employment of the poor of Ireland, the Lord Lieutenant be authorized to advance on presentments, for the making and repair of roads, and other public works in Ireland, a sum of money not exceeding £50,000."

The resolution passed unanimously.—Adjourned.

COLONIAL TRADE BILL.

The Honourable F. Robinson moved the second reading of the Colonial Trade Bill.

Mr. F. Buxton observed, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had, on a former occasion, promised to refer the question of the duty on East India sugar to the Committee on Foreign Trade. He wished to know whether it was still intended that this should be done? A pamphlet had been written upon this subject by an intelligent merchant of Liverpool, Mr. Cropper; and, in the answer put forth to it, it was admitted, that there was upon East India sugar a duty of 6s. beyond that paid upon West India produce. This tax amounted to £5 per ton, and taking the produce at two hundred thousand tons, it operated as a tax to the amount of one million upon the consumer here. He was not himself very well acquainted with the facts; but he had been informed by most respectable authority, that if an *ad valorem* duty were imposed upon all sugars equally, the sugar now sold for 6½d. per pound might be sold for 3½d. This (his informant said) would take off a duty of sixteen millions to the country. He did not pledge himself to the accuracy of this calculation; but supposing, that it amounted to a sum of eight millions, or even four millions, it was an object worthy of their most serious consideration. It appeared, that our trade with India increased in a most extraordinary degree. In 1792, the quantity of cotton imported from the East Indies did not exceed one hundred pounds; in 1813, it amounted to one hundred thousand pounds; in 1820, it amounted to one million pounds. There had been no returns made since that period; but it was more than probable, that the quantity of cotton imported from India last year amounted to two million pounds; in short, there was no limit to the extent to which our trade with India might not be carried.—Mr. F. Robinson said, that, as the act, imposing the duty on East India sugar, would expire next year, the subject might be fully investigated before any renewal of that duty took place.—After a long discussion, the bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1832.

Mr. Canning presented a petition from certain merchants in Liverpool, praying that a duty might be imposed on the importation of foreign butter.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1832.

CATHOLIC PEERS' BILL.

Mr. Canning, accompanied by several members of the House of Commons, brought up this bill, which he delivered to the Lord Chancellor, repeating the full title in terms to the following effect:—"The Commons have passed this bill, entitled a bill to provide that Peers of the United Kingdom, being otherwise duly qualified, may exercise the right of sitting in Parliament without taking the oath, or making the declaration herein recited, to which they desire the concurrence of this House."

After a short time had elapsed, the bill was, on the motion of the Duke of Portland, read a first time, and the second reading, was fixed for Friday, the 31st current.—Several petitions against the bill were presented.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1832.

Lord Stanley presented a petition from the directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures at Manchester, in favour of the Navigation Bill, and praying for the removal of the restrictions upon commerce in general.

Lord Stanley presented a petition from a large and respectable body of merchants and manufacturers resident in the town of Blackburn, in the county of Lancaster, against the Poor Removal Bill. Petitions of a similar nature were presented from the Mayor and corporation of Liverpool, by General Gascoyne.

Petitions were presented against the Leather and the Salt Tax.—A discussion of some length on Irish tithes arose, on the presentation of a petition praying the House to take the tithe-system into consideration, during which, Sir J. Newport spoke warmly against the Potatoe tithe. Allusion was made to the proposed bill of Mr. Goulburn, which would only give the power of leasing, which several members thought would produce no good effect.—A discussion arose on the Marriage Act Amendment Bill, the purpose of which was chiefly to amend certain clauses relating to minors, which will render the question of legitimacy less imperious, and destroy the family feuds so frequently the result of the present law. The clauses were agreed to.

NAVIGATION BILL.

Mr. Wallace, on moving that the House go into a Committee on this bill, rose to state its object. It had been framed to simplify and amend the existing laws, with a view to extend foreign commerce. Several acts passed from the reign of Edward III. to the time of Charles II. were proposed to be repealed, some of which were totally in disuse—others contradictory, and others rendered unnecessary by subsequent enactments. The prohibitions hitherto laid on foreign vessels, it was proposed to modify, so that the retaliatory prohibitions of these nations might be done away with; as he conceived a free trade would be most beneficial to all. The alterations he proposed should be limited until we ascertained how other powers acted with regard to reciprocal freedom of trade. "No time for altering our commercial system could be more favourable than the present. When it was seen what commercial codes other countries were adopting, this would be felt to be in no small degree important. We had taught them to act on such principles by our own example. It was now for us to set them the example of recurring to a better system; to a system better for us, better for them, and mankind in general. His first proposed relaxation was to permit foreign ships to bring goods, the produce of a foreign country, to this. The restriction hitherto imposed was intended to give employment to British shipping, but it had been abortive; and he thought it an obviously weak policy to compel goods to be brought circuitously, when they could be brought direct at a cheaper rate. The Bill should make it necessary that all articles should be imported in British ships, or in the ships of the country where they are produced. He would admit of restrictions on several articles. This measure would reduce all the separate laws for respective countries to one, and render them applicable to all circumstances—This next relaxation affected South America. Without attempting to prescribe to the Executive Government what course of policy it should pursue with respect to the recognition of the independence of the South American States, he proposed that the shipping of those States should be admitted into the ports of this country on the same terms as those which regulated the admission of British ships into the ports of those States respectively.—Mr. Ricardo was happy he saw the possibility of improvement in our system was at length admitted by many members. The only complaint he had against the bill, was, that it did not go far enough.—After some observations from Mr. Brougham, who was warmly in favour of the bill, it was read clause by clause, and agreed to; and the report was ordered to be brought up on Wednesday.

Lord LONDONDERRY gave notice, that, on Friday next, he would move the adjournment of the House from that day till the Thursday following.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1832.

EXPORTATION OF FOREIGN CORN.

Mr. Canning presented a petition from certain persons of Liverpool, interested in the trade of foreign corn, regretting that the proposition for permitting foreign corn to be exported in the shape of flour had been abandoned by the House. The Right Honourable Gentleman stated, that as he was at present informed, he felt inclined to concur with the petitioners, and if no Member of the Agricultural Committee were to anticipate him, he would, upon the Foreign Corn Bill being committed, propose a clause to that effect. He begged leave at the same time to state, that he did not altogether approve of the tone which the petitioners assumed upon this question.

There was nothing important in the Lords on Wednesday; (May 22.) and in the Commons—not a sufficient number of members to constitute a House.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1822.

Mr. Goulbourn obtained leave to bring in a bill to regulate the appointment of constables in Ireland.

Some proceedings then took place respecting the judicature of Wales.—Mr. Allen, who moved that the House should resolve itself into a committee, to consider the reports of the select committees on the Welsh Judicature, was of opinion, that two Judges would suffice for Wales, which, adding to it several of the adjacent English counties, he proposed dividing into two circuits. With the two Judges required for the additional circuit, he proposed forming another Court of King's Bench to facilitate the business of that Court.—Mr. M. A. Taylor moved for an adjournment of the discussion; and, on a division being called, the House was short of members, and adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1822.

Mr. H. G. Becket said he should bring in a bill to regulate the public-house licensing system. The same gentleman moved for a copy of the report made by the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, on the subject of Mr. Theodore Hook's defalcation, dated July, 1819, with copies of all correspondence between their Lordships and that individual.—Ordered.

Mr. Hobhouse presented a petition from a woman of the name of Bowditch, complaining that she had been sentenced to twenty-one months' imprisonment, on the evidence of persons who were subsequently convicted of perjury for such evidence. The result of this distressing case ought to be a salutary lesson to all Judges not to be too confident in their own opinions, and he hoped that Mr. Justice Best, in particular, would learn from it, not to use, on any future occasion, the strong language he employed when refusing to grant a rule for a new trial. In one part of the Learned Judge's observations on that occasion, there was this passage: "We, who are conversant with mankind, well know how frequently the stoniest minds have been borne down and overcome by the force of fear. He must be a great philosopher indeed who can fix limits to terror, or define its operations on the human mind." Thus talked the Learned Judge; and who could have anticipated that he who knew mankind so exceedingly well, should have been on this case so much deceived? What Parliament could do with this case he certainly did not know; but he certainly felt that Mr. Justice Best would have done well to have refrained from the strong language he made use of. He hoped that Learned Judge, for the future, would consider himself just as liable to human fallibility as any of the individuals who sometimes stood upon the door of his Court.—Ordered to be printed.

NEW PENSION COMMUTATION PLAN.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, after slightly referring to the failure of his old scheme, proceeded to explain the new one. Instead of looking to corporate bodies to become contractors, he should throw his plan open to the public, who individually might purchase annuities for forty-five years from trustees to be appointed by Act of Parliament. By this measure he would spread the expense of the navy and military pensions, amounting to five millions annually, over a period of forty five years, and thereby effect a present saving for two millions per annum. The taxes he proposed to remit to this amount were 13s. out of 15s. per bushel on salt; the Irish Window and Hearth Tax; the additional duty on Leather which was imposed in the year 1812; and, lastly, the tonnage duty on shipping, granted during the last war. The Right Honourable Gentleman concluded by proposing resolutions to the above effect. After a short debate, in which Mr. Hume divided the House, on the propriety of taking the pension money from the Sinking Fund (35 to 115) the resolutions were agreed to. Adjourned to Thursday.

HOUSE OF LORDS, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1822.

In consequence of the absence of Earl Grey, owing to the recent death of the Countess Dowager Grey, the second reading of Mr. Canning's Catholic Bill was postponed to Friday, the 21st instant. There appears no chance of the bill being carried; there was a majority of thirty-nine against it last year; and, out of fourteen newly-elected representative Peers, ten are said to be hostile to the bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1822.

FOREIGN WOOL.

Mr. Stuart Wortley presented a petition from the Clothiers of Yorkshire, praying for a repeal of the duty on foreign wool. He was friendly to the object of the petition. The tax had failed to raise the

price of home wool, and it had driven the British manufacturer out of the foreign market. It was evident its repeal would tend to benefit the English grower; for cloths could not be made but from a mixture of home wool with foreign; and the more foreign wool we imported, the more British wool would, in consequence, be used.—Mr. Burrell thought the tax should be increased; and if a motion were made for its repeal he should propose doubling the present duty.—Mr. Coke said, British wool had certainly declined since the imposition of the tax.—Mr. Curwen thought its most oppressive part was its inequality, and recommended caution. He stated, that an instrument had been invented in this country, by which woollen rags (formerly employed as manure) were pulled to pieces, and made capable of being worked into manufactures of a very inferior quality. He thought the practice prejudicial to the reputation which the English manufactures had acquired abroad, and that some measure should be resorted to, to restrain it.—The petition was read and laid on the table.

Mr. Abercromby presented a petition from the Company of Merchants of Edinburgh, praying that the bill for altering the law for empannelling juries in Scotland, in criminal cases, might pass into a law.—Mr. Peel said, that if he found a general satisfaction at the administration of justice in Scotland, and that the accused had as many chances (chances!) as in England, he should be unwilling to disturb the system. If the alteration were advisable in Edinburgh, it did not follow it would be beneficial elsewhere.

A petition was presented from Joseph Pinsent, praying, that the value of every British interest in the state might be ascertained, with a view to the due protection of each.—Mr. Hume thought this would destroy commerce; and rather recommended the confutation of the scheme by bringing it before Parliament, if it were worth while. The petition was read and ordered to be printed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1822.

A petition being presented against relaxing the restrictive law as to the number of partners engaged in country banks, a conversation ensued, in which Mr. Grenfell spoke of the enormous profits made by the Bank of England, amounting, he said, in the last twenty-five years, to more than twenty-five millions of money, exclusive of a dividend of seven per cent.—Mr. Manning defended the conduct of the Bank; and Mr. Ricardo observed, that he did not complain of the directors making the most of their concern, but of ministers, for making such improvident bargains for the country with them.—Mr. Monck thought that such bargains were just, upon the terms of spendthrift and usurer!—one being obliged to consent to any terms proposed by the other.

Mr. Canning presented a petition from Liverpool, respecting the trade to India,—when Mr. Wynn said, the India Company was willing to concede an important point, namely, to allow the private trade to India to be carried on in shipping of less than 350 tons. He added, he should move for a Committee on this subject on Monday.—On a question being asked as to opening the China trade, Mr. W. said, the Company was not willing to allow any alteration in its charter to that point.

Mr. Canning presented a petition from the West India merchants of Liverpool, in which they set forth that there was a very great glut of West India sugar in the market, and that the difficulty of procuring purchasers for it would be greatly increased if the relief which it was contemplated to afford to the manufacturers of East India sugar were sanctioned by the House. The petitioners, therefore, prayed that the duty on East India sugar, which was about to expire, might be continued.

Mr. Hume said there were two contending interests, the West and East Indian, in the sugar market, and it was worthy consideration whether much benefit would not accrue if the duty were reduced considerably lower than 27s. From 1803 to 1809 the duty on West Indian sugar was 20s.; from 1809 to 1813 it was 26s.; and now it was as high as 27s. If the duty were reduced to 20s., or even lower, the Right Honourable Gentlemen would, by the increased consumption, secure the same amount of revenue which the existing duty produced, and at the same time add very much to the comforts of the people. The petition was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Canning said, he had two petitions to present, the prayer of which was in direct contradiction to that just laid on the table. The one was from certain merchants and ship owners of Liverpool, in which they prayed, that the duty on the importation of East India sugar, in order to protect the West India manufacturer, and which was about to expire, should not be renewed. They stated the extent of the sugar manufacture in the East Indies, and recommended that East India sugar should be allowed to be imported under bond, and that the duty on sugar should henceforth be levied according to its value, without any distinction between the produce of the East and of the West Indies. The second petition was from certain merchants, agents, and ship owners, interested in the trade with the East Indies, and resident in London:

They prayed, that the duty of 10s. per cwt. which was imposed on East India sugar in 1813, might not be renewed.—The two petitions were ordered to be printed.

MR. SCARLETT'S POOR REMOVAL BILL.

A debate of some length now ensued, on the second reading of this bill being proposed by Mr. Scarlett in a speech of some length. It was strongly opposed by several members on both sides of the House; and Lord Londonderry, though he was not averse to its being read a second time, gave it as his opinion, that the bill would tend greatly to increase expense, and promote litigation.—Previous to the motion for the second reading, General Gascoyne presented the petition from this town against the bill. An immense number of petitions were also presented from different parts of the country against the bill.—On a division, the bill was thrown out by a majority of 82 to 66 against its being read a second time.

Some minor business, and the other orders of the day, being disposed of, the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1822.

Several petitions were presented from publicans, and others from licensed brewers and victuallers of Lancashire, against the licensing bill.

A petition from the inhabitants of the Hundred of Norfolk, for Parliamentary Reform, was presented by Mr. Coke. He stated that the language of the petition was strong and manly, but not, he conceived, disrespectful to the House. The petitioners complained of oppressive taxation, part of which was lavished to obtain majorities in the House of Commons, and that the standing army was kept up to subdue the constitutional spirit of the people. The language of the petition was assailed by several speakers, and defended as true and manly by others; on being put to the vote it was rejected by a majority of 34.

NAVY AND MILITARY PENSIONS.

A long and uninteresting debate ensued on the receiving of the report of the committee on this subject.—Mr. Hume moved that it was expedient to take from the Sinking Fund an annual sum equal to the relief from taxation required, instead of raising it by loan or annuity.—Mr. Brougham, Mr. Ricardo, and Mr. Calcraft described the plan of ministers of appointing new commissioners to negotiate the annuities, in place of at once, in accordance with Mr. Hume's motion, saving the expenses which the measure would incur, by taking the sum from the Sinking Fund.—Mr. Greyell proposed, on the rejection of Mr. Hume's motion, a clause, empowering the commissioners of the Sinking Fund, to extend their dealings to annuities.—This amendment was agreed to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. Curwen moved, as an amendment, that the total repeal of the Salt Tax be inserted in the resolution, and with it the machinery and needless patronage of collection.—This attempt to get rid of the remaining 2s. tax, and thereby relieve the fisheries, was opposed by the Grenville party, and was lost by a majority of 44 in favour of the original resolution.

CORN IMPORTATION BILL.

On the motion being made for a committee of the House on this bill, Mr. Curwen, at some length, combated its consideration at present, on the ground that, now the country had considered it, there was a general wish it should be given up, as no immediate relief could be derived from it.—Mr. Western testified to this general feeling.—Mr. Canning said, if the House went into a committee, he should move an instruction to the committee from the holders of foreign corn at Liverpool, the owners of which entertained a hope that they might be permitted to grind it into flour, and export it to the West Indies and other places, under regulations to ensure its non-appearance in the British markets.—Sir T. Lethbridge opposed Mr. Canning's clause; and Mr. Ricardo thought, that if, under proper securities, the corn should not return in flour to our markets, no clause could be more equitable.—On the House going into a Committee, several amendments of the Corn Bill were proposed, but rejected, with the exception of a clause by Mr. Canning, relative to the grinding and making use of foreign corn, with a view to the prevention of any frauds which might be committed by the improper introduction of foreign corn into home consumption.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday (June 4,) a long debate ensued on the revision of the Criminal Code. The learned and philanthropic Sir James Mackintosh, who has, on former occasions, strenuously exerted himself to obtain such an alteration of the criminal laws, as would render them more accordant with the humane and equitable character of an enlightened age, by a proper apportioning and definition of

punishments for various grades of crime—made, on this occasion, a speech, characterised by the Attorney-general as most eloquent and brilliant. His motion went to obtain the pledge of the House to revise the criminal code early in the next session; and it was carried by a majority of 16, although the Attorney-general had motioned his friends to escape by the trap-door of the "previous question."

House of Commons, Wednesday, June 5, 1822.—The Liverpool Waterworks Bill was read a third time and passed.

No news of importance.—No alteration in the Corn Market.

Stocks closed to-day at the following prices: Red. Ann. 78½—Consols. shut—Ditto for Acct. 80½ ¼—4 per cents. 94½ ¼—Ditto New, 95½ ¼—Exchequer Bills, 2s. premium—India Bonds, 42s. premium.

East India Produce.

LETTER OF THE LATEST DATE FROM LIVERPOOL.

Liverpool, June 12, 1822.—You will observe from the enclosed printed Circular, that in the course of last month, we have had large arrivals of Cotton from America,—the general market has, in consequence, been depressed, and at a public sale here last week, when 5000 bags of various descriptions, chiefly American Cottons, were brought forward: the prices declined farther, say ¼ a ½d. per lb.

Uplands sold at.....7½ a 9d for ordinary to good fair quality.
Alabama6½ a 9½ for ordinary to fine quality.
New Orleans8½ a 10½ for ordinary to good quality.

By the latest arrivals from America, it would seem that our supply from thence will probably be as large this year as it was in 1821, which it will be recollected was nearly 20,000 bags more than the consumption, we are consequently not likely to have much, if any, decrease in stock of this description of Cotton at the end of the year. It is also believed, that there has been a further considerable increase in the planting, under these prospects, there is but little hope entertained of seeing any permanent improvement in our prices this year.

East India Cottons have not however undergone much decline, the demand of late in London has been less active, but although the holders in general are inclined to sell pretty freely, they shew no disposition to submit to any material decline in price; we may quote Bengal from 5½ a 6½ for very ordinary to fair quality, 6½ 6½ for good fair to good, and 7d. per lb. for fine Surat 6½ a 8d. per lb. The deliveries of East India Cotton on London for the first five months of this year have been as follows:—

	Bengal.	Surat.	Madras.	Bourbon.	Total.
For Home use,	13043	10213	633	313	24202
Export,	15080	3560	330	50	19320
From Liverpool, chiefly } for Home use,	3810	2940	6850
Grand Total,	31933	1613	963	363	49372
Leaving the Stock on hand, on the 31st of May, 1822.					
In London,	75230	29150	14910	2360	121650
Liverpool,	13500	7350	550	21400
Grand Total,	88730	36500	14910	2910	143050

thus shewing that there is but little more on hand now than would be equal to the demand for one year, provided it were to continue on the same scale of extent as during the past five months. The future course of the market may be said to depend almost wholly on the extent of the supply, which we may receive from your crop of 1821. If that crop should afford little or no surplus for shipment to Europe, our stock of India Cotton twelve months hence, will be reduced within a narrow compass, and it is even not unlikely that our prices are then may advance a little. But if your crop of 1821 have afforded some considerable export to Europe, we cannot look for improvement, and if your crop of 1822 afford us a supply greater than the present scale of the demand, it would be prudent to anticipate some decline in our present quotations.

Indigo continues high, and any parcel of fair and good quality offered for sale is readily taken out of the market. The arrivals as yet have been but small, not more than about 2500 chests for the Company's Sale, and there are about 300 a 350 chests in Importers' hands here, which will be brought forward soon after the London Sale. In taking a prospective view of the market, we think it may be expected that our supply from your crop of 1821, will not be such as to produce much effect on our prices, and that the supplies, as they arrive, will in general meet with a quick sale, nor can we reasonably anticipate that there will be

such an increase in the produce of your next crop, as will prove to be an over-supply, considering the smallness of the stock now in Europe.

East India Sugars have of late met with a very dull sale, and have with most other kinds, been declining in price, the stock, however, notwithstanding there is an increased supply, as compared with the same period last year, has not increased much, and the home consumption has increased considerably, the deliveries for this purpose from London and Liverpool, in the first 5 months of this year having been 3,700 bags, against 1,700 bags in the same period last year; some part of this increase both in the supply and deliveries, consists however of Bourbon Sugars, which being low and suitable for our Refiners have been taken pretty freely. If the Duty on the East India were the same as on the West India, the home consumption of the former would no doubt materially increase; great exertions are making to effect this object, a being of the most vital importance to the India Trade, especially by the Merchants he is interested in the question, who have a deputation now in London, endeavouring by every means to accomplish it. The West India Interest, however, alarmed for the consequences of an equalisation, are using equally strenuous exertions to keep the Duty at its present difference, and further to get it continued by Law for 10 years certain, this we think the Government will not be so inconsiderate as to grant; but at the same time we fear an equalisation will not be accomplished immediately or until the country see more clearly the vast importance of the measure to its interests.

Salt Petre continuing in large supply, is still looking down in price and the sale dull. The Stock in the Kingdom is so immensely large in proportion to the scale of the peace-consumption, that there is no prospect under existing circumstances of any advance in price, until our supplies have greatly diminished.

The demand for East India Rice is very limited. American is so low owing to an abundant crop, that there is less inducement to resort to Indian, the latter is held nominally at 8 a 16 per cwt. the former sells at 10 a 16, as in quality.

Lac Dye continues to decline, the imports being abundant, and only the best descriptions are saleable. Ginger, Shell-Lac, Turmeric, &c. continue low and excessively difficult of Sale. Munjeet meets with a regular demand, and prices are supported.

PRINTED CIRCULAR.

Liverpool, May 31, 1822.—Our Cotton market during this month has on the whole been languid; in the early part of it there was a tolerably fair demand, but notwithstanding the arrivals were small, the prices were scarcely maintained: Latterly however the arrivals have been very large both from America and from the Brazil; the market in consequence has been excessively flat for the last fortnight, and although the prices have fallen there is still no disposition to buy unless at a further reduction; large public sales are intended to be brought forward next week, 1700 bags, consisting of New Orleans and Sea Islands, being already announced, and further quantities will no doubt be added before the day of sale. The declining aspect of the American markets by the recent advices, the large accumulation of stocks there, and the general expectation entertained that their crop will prove ultimately to be fully equal in quantity to the previous year's all tend to depress the market, and to do away with the expectation of future advantage from holding over. We may quote Upland (but these quotations are nearly nominal) from 7½d a 8½d for ordinary to fair quality, 9½ a 9½d for good fair to good, and 9½d a 10d are asked for very good and fine New Orleans 8½d a 10d, good fair to good 10½d a 11½d, very fine up to 12d; Tennessee and Alabama 6½d a 8½d, good and fine from 8½d a 9d; Sea Islands 12½d a 14½d, good fair to good 15d a 17d; very good and fine up to 21d; stained Sea Islands 8½d a 12d per lb.—East India Cottons continue to meet with a pretty good sale in London, both for home use and for export, but being held here at higher prices, the sale is in consequence limited. Bengal may be quoted here at 6d a 7½d, Surat from 6½d a 8½d per lb.—Brazil Cottons have continued to be brought freely into the market for sale, and at the prices at which they have been offering they are cheap relatively considered; Maranhon 9½d a 10½d. Pernambuco 10½d a 11½d per lb.

The total sales in the past four weeks have been 29210 bags, of which 13470 are Uplands, 2150 New Orleans, 540 Tennessee and Alabama, and 2990 Sea Islands; our Imports in the same period have been 35522 bags, of which 23673 are from America. In the course of the present week about 27,000 bags (not included in the following statements) have arrived; while the sales are scarcely 4900 bags. The feature most deserving any particular notice in the following comparative account of Imports and Sales, is the increased sale of Brazil Cotton as compared with the same period last year; there has been less done in American on speculation so for this year; the sales therefore appear to be less, but the consumption is not less, although it has not increased perhaps in the same

ratio with Brazil and East India, but as the prices fall its relative consumption may increase.

	American.	Brazil.	East India.	Other kinds.	Total.
Import into Liverpool since the beginning of the year,	110183	57037	301	7465	175011
Ditto, in the same period of 1821,	124375	31803	804	11108	170090
Sales in Liverpool since the beginning of the year,	90610	54420	5700	8740	168470
Ditto, in the same period of 1821,	102320	40150	6730	7700	157400
Total Import into the Kingdom since the beginning of 1822,	129095	60362	2391	13589	205437
Total Import in the same period of 1821,	136770	36706	6987	17251	197714

Rice.—There continues to be a fair demand for export, chiefly for good new, which brings from 15s. 6d. a 15s.; fair parcels only 14s. a 14s. 6d., and some very fine occasionally for home use 16s. a 16s. 6d. per cwt.; old Carolina is seldom inquired for, and cannot be quoted at more than 10s. a 12s. per cwt. as in quality. The supply of Quercitron Bark has of late been considerable, and the sale at present is very dull, only the finest descriptions are at all inquired for, and these cannot be quoted higher than 15s. a 15s. 6d. per cwt. The only sales of Flaxseed now making are for crushing; the prices obtained are from 36s. a 38s. per bhd. The sowing season in Ireland closed at very low rates and a considerable quantity remains on hand.

Liverpool Price Current.

LIVERPOOL PRICE CURRENT, JUNE 12, 1822.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Cotton, per lb. (duty paid) Bengal,	0	5½	a	0 7
Surat,	0	6½	a	0 8
Bourbon,	0	11	a	0 13
Indigo, per lb. in bond, Bengal, Copper,	7	3	a	9 3
Violet,	8	6	a	10 0
Ditto fine,	10	0	a	10 6
Purple and Violet,	10	0	a	10 9
Ditto fine,	11	0	a	0 0
Blue and Purple,	10	9	a	11 3
Inferior and earthy,	4	10	a	6 6
Madras,	5	6	a	9 6
Rice, per cwt. in bond, Ordinary Brown,	8	0	a	9 0
Good,	10	6	a	12 0
Patna, White,	14	0	a	16 0
Sugar, per cwt. in bond, Bengal, Brown,	15	0	a	20 0
Yellow,	25	0	a	32 0
White, low,	31	0	a	33 0
Middling,	33	0	a	36 0
Good and fine,	37	0	a	40 0
Java,	19	0	a	28 0
China,	25	0	a	36 0
Manilla,	18	0	a	32 0
Saltpetre, per cwt. Refined,	29	0	a	30 0
Rough,	26	0	a	29 0
Ginger, Bengal, per cwt.	12	0	a	14 0
Coffee, per cwt. Samarang,	95	0	a	98 0
Cheribon,	98	0	a	105 0
Bourbon,	55	0	a	100 0
Borax, per cwt.	50	0	a	60 0
Tincol, per cwt.	42	0	a	52 0
Turmeric, per cwt. Bengal,	7	6	a	18 0
Java,	12	0	a	14 0
Munjeet, per cwt.	42	0	a	45 0
Sago, per cwt. Good,	30	0	a	35 0
Ordinary and Middling,	12	0	a	20 0
Pepper, per lb. Black,	0	6½	a	0 7½
Red Sanders Wood, cwt.	7	0	a	8 6

EUROPE DEATHS.

On the 17th of May, his Serene Highness the reigning Duke of Saxe-Gotha Altenburgh, of an inflammation of the lungs. He was in his 50th year. Having left no male issue, he is succeeded by his brother Prince Frederic, the last branch of the Ducal House of Gotha.

On the 26th of May, at her residence in Hertford-street, May Fair, the Dowager Countess Grey. Her Ladyship was the only daughter of George Grey, Esq. of Southwick, in the county of Durham, and widow of General, the Right Honorable Charles, first Earl Grey, K. B. Few persons, at the advanced age of 78, have left the world so deeply and so generally regretted.

PARLIAMENTARY.

—541—

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MONDAY, MAY 6, 1822.

The House met at ten o'clock in the morning, and proceeded in Appeals.

The Countervailing Malt Duties Bill, some local and private Bills were brought up from the House of Commons by Mr. Brogden, the Marquess of Chandos, Mr. Home Drummond, Sir James Graham and other Members, and read a first time.

Petitions were presented by Lord Rolle, from Inhabitants of Exeter, praying for a revision of the Criminal Code; by Lord King, from J. R. Schroeder, complaining of not being allowed to file a Bill in the Court of Chancery, without the signature of a counsel; and by the Duke of Devonshire, from owners and Occupiers of Land in the County of Cork, complaining of agricultural distress, and praying for restrictions on the importation of foreign butter. The last Petition was withdrawn, on account of some informality; the two former ones were ordered to lie upon the Table.

The Excise Licenses Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of the Earl of LAUDERDALE, various Accounts were ordered respecting the prices of Grain at different periods, the quantity imported, delivered out of warehouses, &c.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY, &c.

The Earl GREY adverted to the notice which he had given previous to the Easter recess, of an intended motion, with a view to what he considered the only effectual mode by which relief could be afforded to the public distress, namely, by a large reduction of taxation. It would be recollected that the Noble Earl (Liverpool), in answer to questions put by him (Earl Grey), previous to giving that notice, had stated, that he could not anticipate what would be the nature of the Report of the Agricultural Committee, or what measures might grow out of it. But the Noble Earl also stated, that no further measure was intended to be proposed by his Majesty's Government. Since that period the Agricultural Committee had made a Report—a Report which, if he were to say it did not answer the public expectation, would scarcely be true, since no man, woman or child, in any part of the United Kingdom, expected any thing from the Report of the Committee that could at all tend to the relief of the public distress. It was however scarcely to be expected that the recommendations of the Committee would have been so inconsistent as they actually were with every consideration of sound policy. But in addition to these recommendations, such as they were, a measure had been brought forward in another place, by his Majesty's Government, for relieving the country from the present pressure of a part of what was called the dead expenditure, to which measure he (Lord Grey) most decidedly objected. It was curious to observe that after Ministers had maintained that no reduction of taxation could afford relief to the public distress, one of them even having gone the length of stating, that were the whole of the taxes abolished, no relief would thereby be afforded to the suffering Agriculturists; it was curious to observe, that after all this, the very object and intention of this plan, brought forward by those very Ministers, should be to give relief from a part of the pressure of this taxation. It was not, however, upon the ground of this inconsistency—it was not that the Government went into the market as the buyers of annuities, the price of which they raised against themselves, and then again went into the market as the sellers of annuities, upon terms disadvantageous to the country—it was not that, in direct opposition to the principle of the Sinking Fund, which was held forth by Ministers as too sacred to be touched, that a part of our burdens were to be removed, for the purpose of being placed upon the shoulders of posterity. It was not so much upon these grounds, but because he considered the plan to be a direct violation of all the principles upon which the finances of the country had hitherto rested, that it met with his most decided objection. Could there be a more marked inconsistency than thus to incur an enormous future loss to the country, and throw a heavy burden upon those who were to come after us, when we had the means, by a direct, easy, and safe course, of producing at once the relief that was sought by means of the reduction of taxation. He was one of those who thought that the operation of the Sinking Fund ought for the present to be suspended, in order that relief might thereby be afforded through a reduction of taxation, and he was satisfied that this would be a much easier, safer, and less expensive course of proceeding than that of introducing, by means of the complicated plan of Ministers, a entirely new principle into the financial system of the country, the effect of which no one could foresee, and this for no other purpose than to achieve an object, the reduction of taxation, which, Ministers were at last compelled to admit, was absolutely necessary, but which they might undoubtedly accomplish in the way he had pointed out, at a much less expense to the country, and without risk or complication. As, however, this plan, such as it was, involved the principle of his (Lord

Grey's) intended motion, namely, a reduction of taxation, he thought it right to suspend his motion until the House had had the opportunity of discussing the plan of his Majesty's Ministers; and he trusted that the Noble Earl (Liverpool) opposite would not in the meantime enter into any contract for giving effect to this plan, which should in any way fetter the deliberations of the House. He was aware, that in ordinary loans, where it was agreed on all hands that a loan must be had, it was the practice to make the contract previous to the passing of the Bill for sanctioning it, and no idea was entertained of voiding the contract, unless any fraud was apparent in the making of it. But decidedly opposed as he was to this plan, and intending, as he did, to endeavour to persuade their Lordships to reject it, he trusted, that no contracts would be entered into until the House had had the opportunity of distinctly pronouncing an opinion upon it. With regard to the other measures growing out of the Report of the Agricultural Committee, he was decidedly hostile to that which had for its object the advancing a sum of money by Government, to take into the market, for the purpose of raising the price of grain, nor could he conceive any measure more vicious in principle, or injurious in effect, than that of taking money out of the produce of the taxes, for the purpose of raising the price of grain to the consuming population. With regard to the proposed alterations in the Corn Laws, it did not appear to him that they were called for by the pressure of any existing necessity, or that it would be consistent with sound policy to legislate prospectively for a state of things that might possibly never exist at all, but which legislation might in the mean time be productive of considerable injury. Before he sat down, he wished to notice another measure, which had been opened on the part of his Majesty's Government in the other House—that of allowing joint Stock Companies or other parties to establish Banks in England, and to give an additional ten years duration to the Charter of the Bank of England. He could not discover that any pressure of necessity existed for any such measure, nor was there any proof whatever, that to assimilate the Banking system of England to that of Scotland would be productive of benefit. But above all he objected to the improvident measure of extending the monopoly of the Bank of England for ten years longer, which was wholly unjustified by any consideration of policy that could be brought to bear upon the question. At all events no consideration of pressing necessity existed to call for the enactment of these measures at the present moment; they ought on the contrary to be left for the exercise of that cool and calm deliberation which measures of such unquestionable importance undoubtedly demanded. Nor could he conceive the existence of any motive for pressing them at this period, unless it was intended for the purpose of giving a fallacious (and ultimately most injurious) relief to the distresses of the country, by the violation of the Act for enforcing cash payments. He was unwilling to detain the House longer upon a mere suspension of a notice, but he had felt it his duty to say thus much in objection to measures which he considered as most injurious to the best interests of the country.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL admitted that, previous to the recess, he had said that he could not anticipate what would be the nature of the Agricultural Report, or what measures might grow out of it, and that he had stated that at that period it was not intended by his Majesty's Government to propose any further measures; such was the case at that time. With reference, however, to what had taken place since, he must in the first instance, deny that it had ever been stated by any of his Majesty's Ministers that a reduction of taxation would not be a benefit to the country. What had been stated, what he himself had said, and what he still said was, that the reduction of taxation would not relieve the distresses of the agricultural interests. Of course, if there were any taxes which exclusively or principally affected the agricultural interests, the repeal of those taxes would be, *pro tanto*, a relief to those interests; but the fact was, that the Government taxes in general only affected the agriculturists in common with the other interests of the country; and though it never was denied that a reduction of taxation would be beneficial generally to the interests of the country, still he must contend that it would be no relief, specially or directly, to the agriculturist. He had laid an emphasis upon Government taxes, because, of course, there were other taxes, such as the poor's rates, which materially affected the agricultural interests, and from which, whatever relief could be obtained, would be to them a direct relief. With reference to the Report of the Agricultural Committee, he certainly did not mean to say that it would operate any effectual relief to the agricultural interests, nor did he believe that any Report of any Committee could afford them relief at the present moment. The only question was, whether by any prospective legislation those interests might be ultimately benefited? With reference to the proposed plan for lessening the pressure of what was called the dead expenditure, he could not now enter into the consideration of it without going to a much greater length than would be convenient to their Lordships at the present moment; but when the measure came regularly before the House, he should be prepared to enter into the most minute discussion of it; and he trusted he should be able to convince their Lordships, that whilst in its operation it produced an immediate relief, by means of a reduction of taxation, it was at the same time the best and

the cheapest plan which the country could adopt. He perfectly understood the argument of those who advocated the taking the relief immediately from the Sinking Fund, but against that doctrine he must solemnly protest, convinced, as he was, that to preserve inviolate the Sinking Fund was most essentially to the best interests of the country; and satisfied as he was that he should be able to convince the House, when the time came for the discussion, that this plan in no degree interfered with the principle of the Sinking Fund; but that it depended upon a principle essentially and altogether different. With regard to the measure which had been opened in another place, respecting the extension of the term of the Charter of the Bank of England, he could not but think that the first and the last arguments of the Noble Earl (Grey) were inconsistent with each other. The object of his Majesty's Government was not, as the Noble Earl had stated, to set up joint Stock Companies, but to get rid of a monopoly now possessed by the Bank of England (except and with reference to a certain distance round London); the consequence of which was, that by law no Banks could be established in England, with a greater number of partners than six. It had been admitted on all hands that to get rid of this monopoly in Ireland was a measure likely to prove highly beneficial to that part of the United Kingdom, and it was considered by his Majesty's Government that to afford the means of establishing Banks in England upon a similar system to that of Scotland, where they had been conducted upon principles, under the operation of which there were only one or two instances of failure, would be also highly beneficial. But to do this it was necessary to induce the Bank of England to consent to it, and thus had arisen the extension of their charter for a further period of ten years. He admitted that it was a question for the consideration of the House, whether the advantages to be derived from giving the facility for the establishment of this system of Banking was an equivalent for extending the term of the charter of the Bank of England for ten years further. He was ready also to say that he would rather have had the facility for Banking without the extension of the Bank monopoly, but as this was not in the power of the Legislature, the question of course was whether the advantage to be gained on the one hand was a sufficient compensation for the extension of the monopoly on the other. The question must also be taken with a view to this consideration, that in three years the power of issuing 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes would expire, and it was necessary to make some legislative provision with reference to this consideration. He had thus briefly adverted to the different points alluded to by the Noble Earl, but of course the time for discussion was not yet come.

The Marquess of LANSDOWNE defended his Noble Friend (Lord Grey) from the charge of inconsistency in his arguments, his Noble Friend having only urged what he (the Marquess of Lansdowne) was also prepared to maintain, that with reference to the question regarding the Bank of England, and giving facility for the establishment of Banks in the country, there was no pressing necessity at the present moment for bringing forward the question or entering into its discussion. He of course was not disposed to object to the measure which had been carried into effect with regard to Ireland, because in fact he himself had recommended it, but though it was of great importance to Ireland, where there was want of a capital, to give a facility for the establishment of Banks by getting rid of the monopoly of the Bank of Ireland, and it was hoped that the measure would be followed by advantageous results to that part of the United Kingdom; yet it did not follow that a similar measure would be productive of advantage in England, where capital abounded; nor was he aware that it was wanted or called for in England. He admitted that it was a question for the House to consider, whether the facility to be obtained for the establishment of Country Banks, without restriction, was an equivalent for the extension for ten years further of the monopoly of the Bank of England, which, however limited in distance, he was persuaded they would not do business of less extent than they did at present. But on former occasions, upon the renewal of the Bank Charter, there had been either a considerable sum of money given by the Bank as a consideration for it, or a large sum of money lent to the public at a less rate of interest than it could otherwise be obtained, and it was certainly a great question for consideration, whether this course was now to be departed from, without any apparent necessity. He thought it necessary, however, to move for copies of the correspondence between the Noble Earl (Liverpool) and the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, respecting the renewal of the Bank Charter.

The Earl GREY, in explanation, observed, that he had not been inconsistent in his arguments, his view of the question regarding the extension of the term of the Bank Charter, coinciding entirely with that of his Noble Friend (the Marquess of Lansdowne), there being, in his opinion, no pressing necessity for the measure, nor was there, as far as he could learn, any call for it; at least in the part of the country with which he was more immediately connected, there was no complaint respecting the stability of Banks, nor any distrust as to the property by which their credit was sustained.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL said, he had no objection whatever to the production of the correspondence. With regard to the renewal of the Bank Charter, it should be recollected, that as the law stood, the mono-

poly of the Bank must continue till 1833, and that it was not in the power of Parliament to deal with the question of giving any facility to the establishment of Banks in England, without the consent of the Bank of England. The proposition, therefore, was, that that monopoly should be given up forthwith, except with reference to a certain distance round London, and that as a consideration for this, the term of the charter of the Bank of England should be extended for ten years further, till 1843; and the question, of course, was for the House to consider whether the obtaining immediately this facility for Banking was a sufficient equivalent for the further extension for ten years of the Bank Charter. With regard to the argument of there being no pressing necessity, the fact was, as he had already stated, that the power of issuing 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes would expire in three years, or rather in less than three years; and there had been applications to the Government from numerous Country Banks, to know what was intended to be done respecting that object, because they stated it to be absolutely necessary to them to know now upon what footing they were in that respect to be placed at the end of that period, as they must begin to make their arrangements accordingly? It was, therefore, that the consideration of this subject became necessary, because, if no arrangement was made with a view to that period, the Country Banks would commence the withdrawing their notes, and thus the circulation would become much more narrowed than it was at present, and the distress would thus be materially increased.

Lord KING condemned the measures brought forward by Ministers, and contended that they had merely resorted to tricks, to prevent, if they could, an appearance of inconsistency, whilst their measures were in reality most inconsistent. As to poor rates alluded to by the Noble Earl (Liverpool), it must be evident that their pressure was increased by the taxation upon articles of consumption, and therefore their increase was undoubtedly to be attributed to the pressure of Government taxes.

Lord SUFFIELD, in corroboration of what had been stated by Lord King, with regard to the poor rates, read a statement for the purpose of shewing their proportionate increase with the increase of the National Debt.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL expressed a wish that the Noble Lord (Suffield) would inform himself, before the next discussion, of the subject of the amount of the poor rates two years ago, when the National Debt remained the same.

Lord HOLLAND wished the Noble Earl (Liverpool), before the next discussion of the subject, to inform himself whether putting money into the pockets of the rich was a more beneficial measure than keeping it in the pockets of the poor?

The motion was agreed to.

Adjourned at half-past six till to-morrow (this day).

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, MAY 6, 1832.

Sir ROBERTSHAW presented a Petition from the Separatists of Dublin, praying to be placed in the contemplation of law on the same footing with Quakers. The Honourable Member bore testimony to the respectability of the Petitioners. The Petition was brought up, and laid on the Table.

NAVIGATION LAWS.

Mr. LAMBTON said, he rose to present two Petitions, one from the Ship owners of Sunderland, and the other from the Ship-owners of South Shields, against the Navigation Bill, introduced by the Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Wallace). He should not enter on the discussion of that question then, as an opportunity would be afforded on the second reading, when the House would be in the possession of the reasons of the Right Honourable Gentleman. There were, however, some allegations in the Petitions which he was anxious to read to the House. These Petitioners embarked their property in shipping, under the protection of the Navigation Laws. That property had been considerably depreciated since the peace; and from the cheapness in the outfit of foreign ships, it would be impossible for British shipping to compete with them, in the event of any relaxation of the Navigation Laws. That by the operation of the Bill before the House, they dreaded being deprived of the traffic with Asia, Africa, and America, and they could not see the policy of any relaxation of these laws, when the arrival of every foreign tariff showed that every impediment was given to our trade in foreign countries. These were the allegations of the Petitioners; for his own part he was under some difficulty as to the policy of the Bill against which they prayed. He was a friend to the principle of a free trade. He thought some alteration should be made in the present system, but he could not consent to obtain that alteration at the sacrifice of those interests which were the main source of our maritime superiority. He could not, at a moment when that House was about to afford protecting laws to one great branch of the public economy, withdraw from another great class, namely, the Shipping interest (whose property had been also considerably depreciated), that protection which the navigation policy of the country had so long afforded them. Whatever speculative opinions

he might entertain, he still hesitated to risk the sacrifice of the British shipping interest, particularly when he considered the great disproportion in all the expenses of outfit, &c. between British and foreign vessels. The price of building in London was 25*l.* per ton; in the out-ports, &c. 16*l.*, while foreign ships were built in Norway, Sweden, and Hamburg, at 8*l.* per ton. A similar disproportion existed in the prices of other articles, and in the pay of seamen's wages. If, however, the Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Wallace), who had introduced the Bill, should be able to satisfy him that the evil consequences apprehended by the Petitioners would not result from the alteration he proposed; if he were competent to show, that under that relaxation of the Navigation Laws, British vessels could still successfully compete with foreigners, he was not disposed to oppose the measure. It was a subject that attracted the greatest consideration of our ancestors, and whether that system was to be preserved in all its strictness, or to be relaxed, by their posterity, still he trusted that it would receive the fullest consideration of the Legislature.

The Petitions were then brought up.

Sir I. COFFIN said, that if the shipping interests were not protected, this country would never fight another naval battle.

Lord ALTHORP did not think it possible that any such dangerous effects as the Petitioners apprehended could follow the adoption of the measure. The preference that foreign vessels obtained from the cheapness of outfit, alluded to by his Honourable Friend, would be more than counterbalanced by the expenses that must be incurred in the establishment of depôts, wharfs, duties of loading and unloading.

Mr. GLADSTONE supported the prayer of the Petition.

Mr. M. A. TAYLOR observed, that unless he saw very strong reasons, he should be reluctant to give his support to any alteration of that Navigation policy under which this country had so long flourished, and to which her maritime greatness was mainly attributable. He must indeed be well convinced before he could consent to sacrifice a substantial good to a precarious advantage.

General GASCOYNE stated that he should have to present a similar Petition from Liverpool. He was unable, in the Bill before the House, to discover the equivalent to which we were about to give up our ancient policy. In place of equivalent, he saw nothing but every species of hostile disposition, he meant commercially, in the conduct of foreign nations towards this country.

Mr. WALLACE adverted to the great inconvenience of anticipating the discussion of a question not fully before the House. When the principle of the Bill was in discussion, he trusted he should be able to state the reasons that justified it.

Sir W. CURTIS wished to offer a few words on that important subject. He considered the Shipping interest as the key-stone of our maritime superiority and greatness (*hear, hear*); and if that stone were loosened or taken out, the whole of that proud superstructure would soon disappear. He would resist it with all his force (*a laugh*); and had he the voice of Stentor (*a laugh*), he should extend it to the extremities of the kingdom, in order to arouse the public mind to a sense of the danger (*hear, hear*).

Mr. LAMBTON, in explanation, stated, that he understood, from the best authority, that the charges, under the head of Wharf and Dock Duties, were one-fourth less in foreign countries than in Great Britain. He fully concurred in the architectural simile (*a laugh*) of the Worthy Baronet the Member for London (Sir W. Curtis), and most certainly, should oppose the Bill, if it were in any degree likely that such an injury to our maritime superiority would result from its adoption.

Mr. ELLICE expressed his surprise, that when the attention of Government had been directed to the consideration of the policy of our Navigation system, no proposition had been made by his Majesty's Ministers to reduce the charges, the excessive charges to which the British Shipping was liable in every part of our dominions (*hear, hear*). These charges were double, and very often treble in amount, of those paid by the shipping of other nations; and for what purpose were these excessive charges levied? To pay enormous salaries to British officers holding Colonial appointments. He mentioned that evil the more particularly, because the remedy was a mere matter of regulation, to be adjusted by the Government, without the interposition of that House. Let the House take into its consideration the voyage of a British vessel to our Colonies—to Quebec, for instance, there she was subjected to heavy charges, for no other reason than to contribute to the large salary of a Collector of Customs, at from 3,000*l.* to 4,000*l.* per annum (*hear, hear*). And he would venture to say, that while at such an inconsiderable port as Quebec, such a sum was paid to an English Collector; at New York, the most extensive port in the world, with the exception of London and Liverpool, and equalled only by the Clyde and Hull, the duties of the Collector were discharged at a salary of 500*l.* a year (*hear, hear*). In many of the West India Islands there were two Collectors, and a British ship was charged with duties to pay the salaries of both. There was

also another evil to which the British shipping was exposed, and its extent would be more fully explained when his Honourable Friend's motion, the Member for Aberdeen (Mr. Hume), was before the House. It arose from the excessive amount of Consular fees. In the Island of Sicily there were four ports, and fees were paid to the British Consul in each port (*hear, hear*). Before any attempt was made to introduce into our maritime policy the principles of a free trade, measures should have been previously adopted to relieve the shipping from those excessive and multiplied charges to which it had been exposed; and to have it, at least, placed on a level in that instance with foreign shipping.

General GASCOYNE wished to know when it was intended to read the Navigation Regulation Bill a second time?

Mr. WALLACE said he wished to move the second reading that evening, with an understanding that the discussion should take place on the Report.

Mr. LAMBTON concurred in the arrangement, as did Mr. MARRYATT; and after a few words from Sir W. DE CRESPIGNY and Sir M. RIDLEY, who protested against being considered by any such arrangement to accede to the principle of the measure, the Petition was laid on the Table and ordered to be printed.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

Lord EBRINGTON presented a Petition from 792 Occupiers of Land in the district of Holdsworth, in Devonshire, stating the unexampled distress under which agriculture suffered, and attributing the cause to the unexampled pressure of taxation. They prayed, therefore, that taxation be reduced in proportion to the increased value of money, and that the poor's-rate be levied on all species of property.

Mr. W. GORDON presented a Petition from the Shipowners of Aberdeen against the Navigation Bill.

SCOTCH DISTILLATION.

Captain WEMYSS presented a Petition from 2000 Farmers and Barley Growers of Fifeshire, praying that Scotch Whiskey should be allowed to be imported into England in the same manner as Irish Spirits were; it would increase the annual consumption of barley by 500,000 quarters.

Sir R. FERGUSON believed the consumption would be doubled by acceding to the wishes of the Petitioners. It was not a mere Scotch question, and he appealed therefore to the landed interest to support it, as it would give a market for their grain.

Lord A. HAMILTON said he should have similar Petitions to present to the House. It was a strange state, that while Irish and English spirits were imported into Scotland, yet the Scotch dealer was not allowed to reimport these very spirits either into Ireland or to England.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he had no intention to oppose the Petition, although there were many observations which he could make upon the subject, if he were not desirous to avoid entering into any debate upon it on the present occasion. A Noble Lord had greatly overstated the case, when he had said the Scotch Distillers could not send their spirits to England. He reminded the Noble Lord of certain regulations, by which they might be enabled to do so. He did not mean to say that the present system could not be improved, but the subject was at present in the hands of Commissioners, who were inquiring how far it was possible to lessen the existing restraints without injury to the revenue, and at the same time to give protection to the fair trader. He believed that the consumption of barley was now 250,000 quarters. He (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) certainly wished every relief to Agriculture, but he would rather that that relief should take place by the consumption of beer, which nourished the people, than by the consumption of spirits, which had the most mischievous operation upon them.

Mr. H. BLAIR said, that the subject had been that day considered by the Agricultural Committee, and that evidence had been heard upon it, which proved that the regulations in question (as we understood the Honourable Gentleman) had the effect of driving out illicit distillation.

The Petition was then read. On the motion that it be referred to the Agricultural Committee.

Sir R. FERGUSON observed, that the great hardship was, that the Scotch distiller, if he wished to distil both for England and for Scotland, must have two licences, and must have two distilleries, not within two miles of one another. If, having already taken out a licence to distil for Scotland, he was desirous of also having a licence to distil for England, he must wait a year before it could be granted to him.

The Petition was then referred to the Agricultural Committee.

On the motion of Mr. H. BLAIR, a copy was ordered to be laid before the House of any Report that had been made to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury by the Chairman of the Board of Excise in Scotland, respecting illicit distillation.

Sir E. KNATCHBULL presented several Petitions from the Owners and Occupiers of Land in the county of Kent, complaining of Agricultural distress.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DUGDALE presented several Petitions from the Owners and Occupiers of Land, against the proposition made to Parliament by his Majesty's Government, to permit the foreign corn under the King's lock to be ground into flour, for the purpose of re-exportation.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PARES presented a Petition from certain Protestant Dissenters of the Unitarian persuasion against the Marriage Act.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MAULE presented a petition from the Growers of Barley in the county of Kincardine, and

Mr. S. WORTLEY a Petition from the Freeholders and others of Forfarshire, praying for permission to import into England Scotch Spirits on the same terms as those which under Irish spirits were so imported.

Both Petitions were referred to the Agricultural Committee.

Sir T. LETHBRIDGE presented a Petition from the Owners and Occupiers of Land in the Counties of Somerset and Gloucester, stating that they had read with particular attention the various sets of Propositions made to Parliament for the relief of the Agricultural Distress, and were persuaded that from none of those Propositions could Agriculture obtain relief. The Propositions of the Honourable Member for Portarlington especially alarmed them. He (Sir T. Lethbridge) certainly agreed with the Petitioners in the alarm they expressed at the Propositions made by the Hon. Member for Portarlington. That Hon. Member, although certainly with great good humour, had, however, chosen to say that those who opposed his plan did so without any reason. Now, really, that was going too far, and being too hard upon his opponents. He (Sir T. Lethbridge) had before offered to the House his opinion on this subject, and he flattered himself that his reasons were quite satisfactory to those who were of his opinion (a laugh). What was called reason was very frequently delusive. They had all heard of the Goddess of Reason in another country, and the consequences which followed from listening to her. He believed that the reasons of those who thought with him (Sir T. Lethbridge) on the subject, were as much entitled to weight as those of the Honourable Gentleman, who ought not, therefore, to be so harsh in his censure.—He (Sir T. Lethbridge) perfectly agreed with the Petitioners that nothing short of the most efficient Duties on Foreign Agricultural Produce of all kinds, could restore prosperity to the Agriculture of the United Kingdom.

The Petition was ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. Cannig's Successor.

To the Editors of the Liverpool Mercury.

GENTLEMEN,

As there scarcely remains a doubt that the Right Hon. George Cannig will condescend to succeed the Marquis of Hastings, as Governor-general of India, and, in that event, a vacancy will occur in the representation of this borough, it behoves the Whigs to be on the alert, and not, as is usually the case, have to find a candidate when they ought to be polling for him. Ministers, in order to keep us quiet, and in order to secure the return of one of themselves, I mean of their corrupt principles, have kept us hitherto in the dark: the writ has come down, and we quite unprepared. Should an election take place, we have, in this instance, only to fight single-handed; there can be no coalition, no split votes; the Corporation in a measure divided; and surely we have some chance of returning a man of honour and integrity.

I therefore call upon you, as men, having the prosperity and welfare of the town and the good of the country at heart, to come boldly forward, and stem, to the utmost of your power, the current of ministerial influence, which threatens destruction: as it is unblushingly avowed in the House of Commons, that the Government cannot be carried on without this aid, and that they cannot spare even an useless Joint Postmaster-general, or a shilling from their own enormous salaries, when the country is overwhelmed with distress, and when inevitable ruin awaits our agriculturists, without retrenchment. The country demands that the affairs of state be carried on with the strictest possible economy.

It is high time to bustle ourselves, and have our "man at arms" prepared to meet the contest. Yours, with respect,

Liverpool,

A WELL-WISHER TO HIS COUNTRY.

Erratum.

In the Remarks on the Censored Sheet from Madras, inserted in page 535, of the JOURNAL of yesterday, in the last paragraph but one, for "Corrupt motives, we suppose, there can be none" READ "Corrupt motive, we suppose, there can be none."

East India Sugar.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Times.

I have been greatly surprised to remark the supineness with which certain measures now pending in Parliament, and which deeply involve some vital questions of national policy and moral obligation, are regarded by the public. I allude particularly to that measure which, while it opens the market of the world to the trade of our West India colonies, perpetuates the obligation upon this country to buy its sugars from them alone.

This is a measure deeply affecting in its consequences all classes of the community, not merely the persons concerned in the trade of India, but the landholders, the manufacturers, and the ship-owners of the united kingdom, together with the immense mass of the consumers of sugars among us. I cannot, therefore, account for the infatuation which has made them all so indifferent to its progress. Still less am I able to account for the extraordinary apathy which has been shown on this occasion by the friends of the African race, the enemies of oppression and slavery, bound as they are in consistency to resist so flagrant a violation of all their principles.

But if the parties have been supine and inactive, the same cannot be said of the West Indian body and of the colonial agents, whether in or out of Parliament. Never was parliamentary job so admirably got up as that with which they are now walking over the course in the House of Commons; and if we may judge from their growing demands, they are fully sensible of the advantage they have gained. They are not content with abrogating our navigation laws, with raising the price of sugar by arbitrary means, and with thus imposing upon us, for the support of West India slavery, the enormous tax of a million and a half annually. They think it not enough to demand from us a trade free on their side, and fettered upon ours—a resort to all foreign markets, with a monopoly of our own; but, in addition to all these innovations, they call upon us to renounce in their favour our splendid prospects in the East. They demand that we shall forego the immense advantages of our Asiatic commerce, which has of late kept our looms in activity, and in some degree redeemed our national prosperity, by refusing us the returns which the agricultural faculties of British India would make to the manufacturing industry of Great Britain.

Their mandate is, that we should shut out the sugars of Bengal, raised by free hands, and bought with our manufactures, in order that we may have to pay them for the sugars of the West Indies, raised by slaves working under the whip, a price high enough to make it worth the planter's while to prosecute for ever his odious and relentless system.

And for whom are we to make all these sacrifices? For colonies which, independently of the tax paid them in the increased price of their sugars, cost now, even in time of profound peace, in order to maintain their misgovernment, and to protect them against their slaves, an immense annual sum, besides the lives of numbers of our veteran troops—for colonies, too, which affect to be independent of the authority of Parliament; which would argue us out of the right and duty of legislating for the reformation of their interior abuses, though we must pay so dearly for defending them; and which, even when we stoop to solicit what we are bound in duty to ordain, have disregarded our solicitations.

This brief appeal may be in vain; and we may for a time be enslaved by our slave-masters, but the people of England will sooner or later resent themselves from such domination. The power of public opinion will be invoked: the true case will be developed; and it will be seen whether the country will endure that the interests of a small class shall prevail over those of the nation at large, at the expense of moral as well as political principle. The cry of the West Indians, during their long and successful struggle to retain the execrable slave trade, was "No slaves, no sugar." The cry of the people of England, I am persuaded, will soon be, "Free sugar, and no slaves."

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

London, June 8.

A LOVER OF FREEDOM.

Shipping.

Portsmouth, June 6, 1822.—On Monday, the 3d instant, the ship DAVID SCOTT, Captain George Bunyon, for Madras and Calcutta, arrived at the Motherbank, and sailed again on the 5th, after having embarked the following passengers:—For Calcutta—Sir R. H. Blossett, Chief Justice of Bengal; J. H. Harrington, Esq., Member of Supreme Council, Calcutta; Mrs. Harrington, Miss C. Harrington, Mrs. Sanford, Miss Sanford, Miss Elphinstone, Miss Jackson, Miss Gibson, Miss Ballard, Miss Arnol; Lieut.-Colonel Perkins, Honourable Company's Service; Captain Simon, ditto; Mrs. Simons, and infant; Rev. T. W. Northmore, Hon. Mrs. Northmore, Rev. Mr. Crawford, Rev. Mr. Arnold, Rev. F. T. Kerchhoffer; Wm. Jackson, Esq., barrister at law; Thomasson, Esq., writer; W. Homfray, Esq., writer; H. Fraser, Esq., writer; J. J. Pemberton, Secretary to the Chief Justice; James Fisher Esq., free merchant; Messrs. Cox, Gerrard, Gilmore, Hamilton, Lewin, and Stephens, Cadets. For Madras—Major Smithwaite, Honourable Company's Service, Mrs. Smithwaite; Messrs. M'Brute, Pickering, and Smithwaite, Cadets.